

Front Porch

Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax neighborhoods

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

MARCH 2014



Executive Producer Charles Packard and company members Patricia Wells (left) and Kelcey Pfluger (right) introduce the Aurora Fox Theater. This and the Vintage Theatre around the corner anchor the developing Aurora Arts District located only a few blocks from Stapleton.

By Laurie Dunklee

Once seedy, downtrodden and crime-ridden, East Colfax in Aurora is transforming into a thriving arts district. Run-down pawn shops and drug dealers are giving way to a lively arts scene that includes multiple professional theaters, galleries, dance and arts education—all just minutes from Stapleton with the new roads that connect to Aurora.

Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St., welcomed audiences totaling 13,000 this year, a 41 percent increase over last year. “Aurora has been great,” said Craig Bond, executive artistic producer. “The city is invested in helping cultural organizations grow.”

More than 500 public performances are scheduled in the various (continued on page 38)

Cast Away

The isolating experience of divorce in Pleasantville



Like Pleasantville, Stapleton is full of “picture-perfect” families. What happens when, as a divorced person, you no longer fit that image?

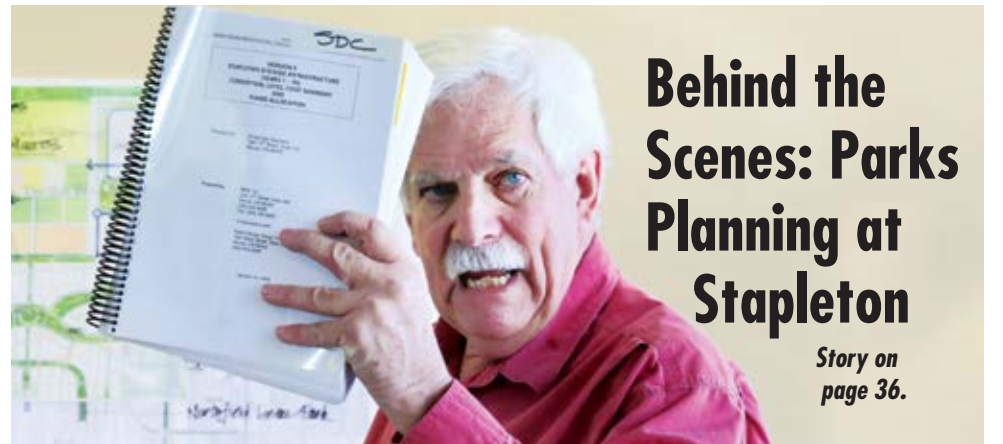
By Madeline Schroeder

Young married couples have two children and a dog. Larger homes match the upper-middle-class incomes. It’s the land

of Priuses, CrossFit bodies, swimming pools and top-notch schools. Stapleton can appear as a Pleasantville-type suburbia, but where in this neighborhood (continued on page 6)

Behind the Scenes: Parks Planning at Stapleton

Story on page 36.



By Carol Roberts

Members of Stapleton’s Parks Advisory Group are concerned and puzzled that the three-way balance in parks planning between Forest City, the City of Denver, and the advisory groups may change. Dennis Piper (above),

a landscape architect and parks planning expert who has worked closely with the community in the planning of Stapleton’s parks, has been told the parks consultant position will be terminated. At the time the paper went to press, it appeared alternative plans were being considered following an expression of support from the community.

Stapleton: From Runways to Residences

Developing a community of 30,000 residents over a 25-year period is complicated—there’s no way around it. We hope our

article on page 19 and chart on page 20 will help you make sense of the process, the entities and the acronyms.

Printed with soy-based ink. Paper contains 40% postconsumer waste.

High School Budget Woes

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Like us at Front Porch Newspaper for updates on local news and events.



Families enjoy the first glimmers of spring at Stapleton's Central Park playground on a 60-degree day in February.



Events listed below are FREE and open to the public or support nonprofits. (Additional events are listed on pages 29-33)

MARCH

Saturday March 1

Museum of Contemporary Art Denver with new art-making space for children, "The Bubble Garden" 1¢ admission on first Saturdays 1485 Delgany St., MCADenver.org

Saturday March 1

Denver Art Museum - SCFD Free Day 720-865-5000, www.denverartmuseum.org

Sunday, March 2

SCFD Free Day, Denver Museum of Nature & Science. 303-370-6000, www.dmns.org

Mon, March 3 & Sat, March 22

Denver Botanic Gardens - SCFD Free Day 720-865-3500, www.botanicgardens.org

Tuesday, March 4

Community meeting on high school construction, 7-8:30pm. Discuss ideas/questions/options with contractor re: finalizing the design plan. SMIS library. Benita Duran 720-423-3785, benita_duran@dpsk12.org

Tues, Mar 4 & Apr 4

Children's Museum, Target Tuesdays 1st Tuesday nights free, 4-8pm, cmdenver.org

**Suggest a Name for the Stapleton High School

By March 14, submit your suggestions to DPS for the name of the new high school. Naming guidelines require that no facility be named for a living person or given the same or similar name as an existing facility. In addition, the name shall meet one of the following guidelines:

- Named after neighborhoods, areas, or communities in the city and county of Denver, or
- Named after people known locally or nationally for achievements in education, science, the humanities, or other appropriate fields. Names of persons shall have stood the test of time as to their importance.

Please email your suggestions to namingcommittee@dpsk12.org or by phone 720.423.3785 by March 14.

The new DPS high school will be constructed in Stapleton north of I-70 at approximately 56th and Central Park Blvd. Construction is expected to start in the spring of 2014 and it is scheduled to open in August 2015.

CORRECTION

The page 19 article about TIF funding in the February issue incorrectly stated: "In 2013, \$39.9 million in tax revenue went to the base and \$369.6 million (the tax increment) went to TIF."

The correct information is: "In 2013, \$39.9 million was the assessed value of the base and \$369.6 million was the assessed value of the tax increment."

MARCH

Thursday, March 6

Stapleton Wine Tasting 7-9pm *MCA Community Room. Register at stapletoncommunity.com \$10.

Thursday, March 13

Active Minds Seminar "The Life & Legacy of Richard Nixon" 7-8pm *MCA Community Room. More info at www.activeminds.com

Friday, March 14**

Deadline for Stapleton High School naming. Email suggestions to namingcommittee@dpsk12.org or call 720.423.3785.

Saturday, March 15

Kids Night Out "Luck o' the Irish" 6-9pm *Central Park Rec Center. Register at stapletoncommunity.com \$20.

Saturday, March 15

Swim Team Registration Opens for Residents at 12pm. *MCA office. pools@stapletoncommunity.com

Wednesday, March 19

Modern Conversations—"Healthy Fighting!" 7-8:30pm. *MCA Community Room, events@stapletoncommunity.com

Thursday, March 20

Community meeting for DPS to report on final design and considerations, 6:30pm. SMIS cafeteria (to be confirmed after March 4 meeting) Benita Duran 720-423-3785, benita_duran@dpsk12.org

Thursday, March 27

Active Minds Seminar "John F. Kennedy" 7-8pm *MCA Community Room. More info at www.activeminds.com

APRIL

Sunday, April 13

Race for Open Space. 5K, 10K or half marathon at Bluff Lake Nature Center. www.RunningGuru.com/Event/RFOS2014

* More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com Stapleton MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St.

The Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events and story ideas (see information on p.33). Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Community DNA

We would like to send a friendly reminder to our residents and guests: please clean up your dog's waste! The neighborhood is equipped with multiple doggy bag/waste can stations to provide you with quick and easy access to bags to clean up after your pup. Please help us keep our parks and community spaces clean!

Kids Night Out

Luck o' the Irish

The next event will be held at 6pm on Sat., March 15 and is for children ages 7-12. Registration is \$20 per child. Register today with a credit card at stapletoncommunity.com or pay by cash at the Central Park Rec Center. The last Kids Night Out of the spring season will be held on April 26.

Stapleton Wine Tasting

The next indoor wine tasting will be held at 7pm on Thurs., March 6 in the MCA Community Room (2823 Roslyn St.). This tasting will feature a variety of wines paired with artisan cheeses. Registration is \$10 per person and space is limited. Register today at stapletoncommunity.com.

Active Minds

The Life & Legacy of Richard Nixon

- Thurs., March 13, 7-8pm, MCA Community Room.

John F. Kennedy - Thurs., March 27, 7-8pm, MCA Community Room.

All Active Minds seminars are free and open to the public. For more information, visit activeminds.com.

Modern Conversations

Healthy Fighting! Tips to make your fights productive and embrace conflict as a means to staying connected - Wed., March 19, 7-8:30pm, MCA Community Room. Modern Conversations are free seminars open to adults in the community. Please RSVP to Hilary at 303.321.3750 or by email at hilary@silvertherapygroup.com.

Swim Team & Swim Lesson Registration

The 2014 Aquatic Guides were mailed to all homes in Stapleton during the first week of March. The brochures contain details regarding swim lessons, the Stapleton Swim Team and adult programming. Swim Team registration will open on March 15 at noon for residents. Metro League (ages 6-18) will be offered at F43 Pool, SSL (ages 6-12) will be offered at Jet Stream or Aviator, and Squirts (ages 5/6) will be offered at Jet

Stream or Aviator. Additional information and details are located online at stapletoncommunity.com. Stay tuned for the Parent Meeting (to be held in March).

Swim lesson registration will open on April 1 at noon for residents. Nonresident registration will open on April 15 at noon. If you have any questions regarding registration, please email pools@stapletoncommunity.com.

Stapleton Beer Festival Planning Committee

The 2014 Stapleton Beer Festival is scheduled for Sat., July 19. We are looking for beer lovers in the community to assist us with coordinating this upcoming event. If you are interested in participating with this committee, email events@stapletoncommunity.com.

2014 Event & Aquatic Sponsorships

The MCA is excited to bring you new sponsorship opportunities for the season! We are looking for event sponsorships (packages and single events are available) and aquatic/restaurant sponsors for the pools. Prices vary for each sponsorship level; all prices are located at stapletoncommunity.com. For more information, email Diane at events@stapletoncommunity.com.

Remember to Renew Your Resident Membership Card (RMC)!

Summer is just around the corner and all pools will open on May 24. Please make sure your RMC is renewed prior to its expiration date. If you have questions regarding your account, email signup@stapletoncommunity.com or call 303.388.0724.

Summer Movie Suggestions

We are in the process of planning for the summer movie series on The Green. We have created a list of our favorites on our Facebook page, facebook.com/stapletonmca, for the summer and we need your feedback! Email your favorites to events@stapletoncommunity.com.

Pool Reservations

We will start accepting reservations for after-hour parties and party pads at the pools on April 1. Reservations can be made online at stapletoncommunity.com.

If you have any questions about the information above, please contact the MCA at 303.388.0724 or email dmead@stapletoncommunity.com.

Dani Mead
Communications Coordinator

Get the latest on

Master Community Association



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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A directory with links to these businesses can be found at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com > Business Directory



DPS Trims High School

By Carol Roberts

With almost 150 frustrated parents packed into the library at Swigert-McAuliffe School on February 25, the first words from DPS Chief Operating Officer David Suppes were, “I want to apologize. We have made some mistakes on the project in the last six months. Our communication with members of the design advisory group and others in the community hasn’t been good. It hasn’t been timely, and we’ve been delayed getting back to folks to let them know where the project is and where it is going.”

Parents had been hearing, in bits and pieces, that the Stapleton high school—scheduled to open in the fall of 2015—was

over budget. But no meetings or announcements were forthcoming in the eight or more months since the design committee finished their work late last spring.

Suppes explained that they gave directions to the architects to design a campus for 2,500 to build toward the future even though the first phase is planned for only 900-1,000 students. He acknowledged they got some budget information that indicated they couldn’t build the entire campus on the budget allocated in the bond. “We should have stopped people from going that direction then.”

But they moved forward getting a bid for all the components of the campus: a 900-1,000 student classroom building, a gym, a commons building that would have the cafeteria and arts classrooms and sports fields and athletic facilities.



You’re invited to a public meeting about your Central Park Station on the East Rail Line

Take a look at the final design for the parking and bus areas for the Central Park Station Park-n-Ride on the East Rail Line.

Thursday, April 10, 2014

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sam Gary Branch Library
2961 Roslyn Street, Denver 80238

Learn more at rtd-fastracks.com (under East Rail Line) or call 303.299.2000.

Please call 303.299.6908 at least 72 hours prior for communication assistance.



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Far left: At a Stapleton community meeting with close to 150 attendees, JT Allen, Senior Director, Bond Program & Construction Services describes what can and can't be built within the budget for the new high school campus. Top and middle: Jil Underwood reacts to information at the meeting, then asks a question. Bottom: Tom Downey speaks about his concern that the first class will have limited facilities at the high school. Below left: DPS Chief Operating Office David Suppes explains how a "functional" school for 900 will be built to open in August 2015.

lack of DPS projections and felt it wouldn't be long until the 900-1000 room building would too small to accommodate the upcoming population of students. DPS staff, however, confirmed that Superintendent Boasberg's promise still stands—every Stapleton family who wants to attend that high school will get a seat. Suppes explained that bond funding for Phase 2 of the high school will be on the November 2016 ballot. If that passes, money would be available to start design and construction immediately, and the commons and a new classroom building would be ready in the fall of 2018. "With our projections we believe that works." He added that DPS will continue to monitor the population and if growth is higher and additional seats are needed in the fall of 2017, "We may need to start early on that and secure funding to get started." When asked if he thinks there's support for another bond, Suppes replied, "I think we can make a case," adding that there are major needs throughout the city and if the bond didn't succeed it would affect schools throughout the district. However he also acknowledged that at this time they have no "Plan B" if the bond fails. DPS staff will be having community meetings soon to discuss boundaries for the new high school. The board will vote on them

either in June or November. Following the February 20 community meeting when DPS first announced the budget problem, new high school principal Avi Tropper told the *Front Porch*, "I want the community to understand that even with the budget overruns and potential delays to some parts of the campus, students will have beautiful spaces in which to learn, play, have fun and flourish." "The planning process for completing the school plan (to be submitted to DPS by April 11) is proceeding smoothly. We are focused on the mission of creating a diverse school community with excellence and opportunity for all. Thanks to the involvement of many dedicated parents we are generating amazing ideas for creating an exciting and supportive learning environment. Any community member who wants to get involved or who wants to share an idea/suggestion for the school should email me at tropper.avi@gmail.com. We will present a draft version of the school plan at the next community forum tentatively scheduled for the end of March." DPS announced there will be no meeting on March 4, as previously planned, but they will have a meeting the last week in March to share their final plan for the facility before starting construction in April.

Plans to Fit Budget

ties. When they got the final bid at the end of January it was \$14 million over budget. Suppes and JT Allen, Senior Director, Bond Program & Construction Services laid out what can be built within the budget and what had to be cut. They explained that construction had to start in April to have the building ready for occupancy in August 2015. They will build the classroom building to accommodate 900-1000 students and a gymnasium that meets CHSAA requirements for basketball. And they will build the multi-purpose athletic field with a track. But the commons building, housing the cafeteria, art and music will have to wait for Phase 2 as will the tennis courts and softball fields. The gym will have PE locker rooms but no additional facilities for athletic teams. If some or all the bleachers are left out of the gym, those areas could be used for weights and aerobics. Students will eat in the classroom

building. Parents struggled to digest what the changes would mean for their children, and to accept that community input at this stage would not change things—the revised plan was already in motion. The Q&A that followed the DPS presentation reflected the frustration, anger and disappointment of parents. Boundaries haven't been determined and numbers for planning purposes are still uncertain. Some parents expressed concern the building will fill faster than DPS is projecting. Others suggested the program may not initially draw as many students as planned due to the limited athletic and arts facilities. The lack of the commons building will add to the program planning committee's work—they will need to plan how to use alternate spaces for art and music in the main classroom building while awaiting construction of the commons building in phase two. Parents expressed frustration about the





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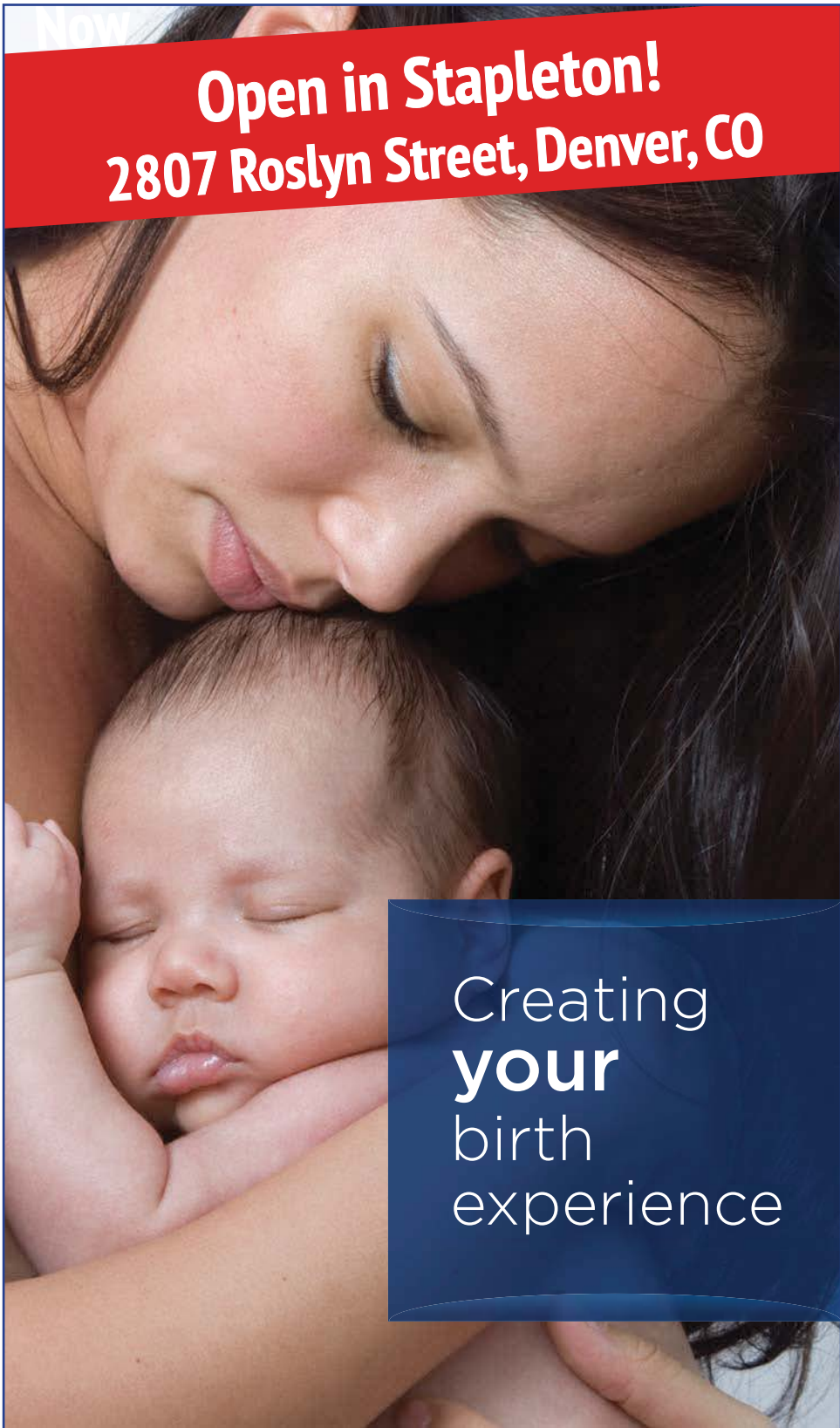
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Divorce

(continued from page 1) By Madeline Schroeder

Young married couples have two children and a dog. Larger homes match the upper-middle-class incomes. It's the land of Priuses, CrossFit bodies, swimming pools and top-notch schools. Stapleton can appear as a Pleasantville-type community, but where in this neighborhood do divorcees fit?

There are a growing number of divorced people in Stapleton—a crack beginning to surface in the picture-perfect image. Going through a divorce in any neighborhood is difficult, but does living in this type of community make it worse?

"In Stapleton you can feel ostracized, almost as though you have some kind of contagious disease other couples might get," Nathan Vigil says.

Vigil, 39, knows Stapleton from the beginning. He moved to the neighborhood in 2002 and for a long time matched the Stapleton image with two kids and a happy marriage.

He told himself he was never going to be one of the 50 percent of people in the U.S. who get a divorce. *I'll never let that happen*, he thought. He couldn't imagine that life, especially living in Stapleton.

"There is a lot of social pressure to put on the front of the perfect person, from an appearance standpoint," he says about the neighborhood. Despite resistance, at times he has fallen prey to that pressure.

When his 13-year marriage ended two and a half years ago, the pressure increased. *Oh my god, everyone in the neighborhood probably knows. Everyone's talking about it*, he feared.

More than ever, he cared what people thought of him. "I nearly drove myself crazy worrying what people thought, people I didn't even know." He wondered if people thought badly of him or assumed there was an affair. Although he considered leaving the neighborhood for a fresh start, he stayed for his two kids.

Richard Rogers, of Rogers Therapy in Cherry Creek, encourages staying in a neighborhood, if possible, rather than leaping into a brand-new life. "Creating a support network is a lifelong endeavor," he says.

He emphasizes that life post divorce is a process of changing your identity. After grieving the loss of a life pictured with your spouse, you can slowly begin to build a single identity. "Depending on the marriage and the support network, it can take some time moving into a different realm."

Once Vigil was single, he became hyper aware of how many families and married couples live in the neighborhood.

For a time, he felt like the only single person in Stapleton. It seemed as if every event was couple oriented. Oftentimes, he'd call friends on Friday nights, forgetting they couldn't get away as easily because of a wife and kids.

While some friends didn't go beyond, "You'll get through it fine, buddy," other friends came over often and let Vigil "jabber

jabber and talk in circles for hours."

Some friendships dropped off entirely, and couples having trouble in their relationships ignored him—divorcees can be very frightening for couples considering divorce, according to Rogers.

Rogers says it's normal for friendships to change after a divorce because many couples may not know how to socialize with just one person in the split.

"If all your friends are couples and all they are doing is couple-oriented things, then you'll feel like the third wheel," Rogers says. "That's okay as long as you're working on something for your single life." Reentering the single world is like changing cultures, he says.

After a couple of months, Vigil transitioned his solitude into soul searching. "You just have to be genuine to yourself and not get sucked into the pressure of the neighborhood. You realize that what's important are friends and family, not 'Oh my gosh, half my belongings are gone; half my bank account is gone.'"

These days, he can appreciate the place he's at in life, far from the nagging fear of what the neighborhood thinks of him.

While Helen Thilly, LCSW, (Alder Grove Wellness Group in Denver) believes staying close to

an existing support network is important, moving neighborhoods can be good for some people.

"I don't know why anybody who didn't have kids would stay in a small community like Stapleton, unless they were super tied to it. It seems like it would be constant reminders and triggers."

She says even moving a little bit away can give a fresh perspective.

Thirty-year-old Lowry resident Samantha Welles moved from a couple-oriented community in Northglenn after her divorce.

Before her divorce, her social life consisted of couples' dinner parties and events. When Welles told the group she and her husband were separating, friends tried to convince them to stay together to keep their network intact.

"It felt like my divorce was very uncomfortable to everybody around me," she says.

She couldn't stand to stay in that proximity to couples she knew and moved early in the divorce to live with her parents.

Now remarried and a Lowry resident who is also familiar with Stapleton, Welles cannot imagine having gone through her divorce in a community like Lowry or Stapleton.

"Being in Stapleton or Lowry would make it 100 times worse, being surrounded by the perfect families," she says.

"It'd be so hard to stay. Neighbors might say they will support you, but once your perfect role has crumbled, they don't want anything to do with that."

Lowry resident Ellen Kramer says it's not just Stapleton or Lowry, but any family-oriented community. Once she and her husband were separating, she felt like she no longer belonged in her neighborhood. "Just being around a lot of families you feel a stigma, you just do."

During her divorce 10 years ago, she felt like she wore a scarlet letter. Suddenly, some parents didn't want their kids to play with her kids anymore.

"People I had been friends with for a long time were afraid. They didn't overtly say it, but I knew it was because they were worried their kids would be nega-

"In Stapleton you can feel ostracized, almost as though you have some kind of contagious disease other couples might get."

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tively influenced being around a divorced person.” Some moms wouldn’t let their teenage daughters over to babysit, and she sensed wives were uncomfortable with her talking to their husbands. “It’s like, please no, please don’t offend us in that way, while I’m just trying to get my life back together.”

With little emotional support from friends or family, Kramer’s divorce felt particularly isolating. While many choose to move during a divorce for financial and emotional reasons, rediscovering happiness in the same community is possible.

When 39-year-old Jillian Scott decided to get a divorce this past year, she considered leaving but said, “Heck no. This is my support system.”

Scott says she has continued to have a great social life throughout her divorce, which will be finalized this May. She has continued to socialize with other couples. She spends some Saturday nights alone because her girlfriends are unavailable, but she recognizes time with their husbands is important.

Many people have reached out to her, including wives considering leaving their husbands.

Many have called to ask about her experience. Besides a neighbor who ignored her after the divorce, Scott says she did not feel judged and says it’s a matter of perception how you get through it in the neighborhood. While she expresses a more positive experience with divorce in Stapleton, she can still testify to the painful change. “I would not sugar coat divorce. It’s hard; it’s hell.”

March 21—Single Parents Day

For the past few years, State Representative Angela Williams, a single parent, has sponsored a Single Parents Day resolution in the legislature. Resolutions are not legislation, but they offer a time for legislators to learn more about the subjects associated with resolutions. The Single Parents Day resolution draws attention to the needs of single parent families and helps make legislators conscious of how legislation may affect those families.

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A group of four women are in an office. One woman on the left, wearing a patterned top, is gesturing with her hand while speaking. Three other women are seated at a desk with laptops. The woman in the center is looking at a laptop screen. The woman on the right is looking towards the speaker. The background shows office shelves and a window.



A group of four people are standing behind a wooden podium. The podium features a blue sign with the Denver Public Schools logo, which includes a mountain and sun icon and the text "DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS". A woman in an orange shirt is speaking and gesturing with her hands. Behind her are three other people: a woman in a black top, a man in a grey blazer, and another woman in a black top. The background shows a modern building interior with a staircase.

spend the rest of their time in a leadership role observing teachers and providing feedback in areas the teachers want to improve. And the team leaders, themselves, get evaluated, so they *(continued on page 27)*

"It's amazing how many parents are always going in and out. Their door is open, and parent involvement is key," she says on the phone as she's leaving a day of volunteering at Isabella Bird. Two days a week, she

(continued on page 26)

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Obamacare Enrollment Update



Health coverage guide Cindy Widdowson (right) helps Ginny Austin get insured on the state exchange website during a health fair at Central Presbyterian Church downtown.

By Madeline Schroeder

Open health care enrollment under the Affordable Care Act is nearing the March 31 deadline.

Looking back on the tumultuous beginning, health coverage guide Cheryl Fleetwood is happy to be far from those early days. “The difference between what we experienced in October and what we experience now is night and day.”

Fleetwood is a Stapleton resident and guide at the Central Presbyterian Church health assistance site.

Enrollment times, page load times, phone wait times and online chat services have improved for users of ConnectForHealthCO.com, the Colorado Health Insurance Exchange.

Every applicant who thinks he or she may qualify for Medicaid or tax credits to help pay for premiums must apply for Medicaid first. In the first few months, Medicaid approval or denial letters were sent in the mail a few weeks after applying. Now people receive real-time responses, and health coverage guides

can print Medicaid cards in the office. If a person does not qualify for Medicaid, guides help determine if he or she qualifies for other financial assistance.

An enrollee’s “Wow, I can afford this” reaction makes the process worth it, Fleetwood says.

Debbie, 61, and Mark Sheets, 64, of Northglenn, have health insurance for the first time in 35 years. “Health insurance has been a matter of paying our mortgage or eating,” Debbie says.

They were intimidated by the site but attempted to sign up in early November.

When Mark put “male” for gender to create his account, the website reported “incorrect response.” “We were like, ‘Okay, what does that mean?’” Debbie says. When she put “female” for herself, the website reported “not applicable.”

On each attempt, the website calculated a different premium ranging from \$150 to \$1,500 using the same information. Having successfully “scooted along” without health insurance for 35 years, they considered paying

the annual penalty fee (\$95 or 1 percent of income) instead of buying a plan.

Guides at Central Presbyterian helped the two get insured with a Silver Plan that includes tax credits and drug coverage.

“We’re feeling much more comfortable now that we should hopefully have health care for the rest of our lives,” Debbie says.

Denver resident Mary Gould, 63, was less thrilled about her new insurance, but says she mentally prepared for the exchange, realizing she’d have to pay more.

Gould previously received health care through the Bruner Family Clinic at Saint Joseph Hospital. Although it was limited coverage, it was affordable.

“I’m never happy to pay more, but the benefit outweighed the irritation,” she says. Unlike her previous health care, Gould can travel and still be covered on her Silver Plan. The plan also reduces a monthly prescription for multiple sclerosis from \$90 to about \$30.

“Someone who has not been paying anything, and then all of a sudden has to pay is a big adjustment. There’s a big learning curve,” Fleetwood says. But she thinks there’s a national learning curve toward everyone having access to affordable health care.

During the early months, some people came into the assistance site angry or frustrated about the Affordable Care Act. Some called the Colorado health insurance exchange a scam. “Fighting the noise” or moving past the politics to begin discussing insurance sometimes took up a large part of a session, according to health coverage guide Cindy Widdowson.

“Our goal is to be neutral. We are like Switzerland. The fact of the matter is this is law, and we are just here to help people navigate the process.”

The frustrating occurrences seemed to have passed, but at times the imprint of discouraged consumers is still visible.

“One thing I’ve learned is everybody has a different definition of what is affordable,” Widdowson says. Building a system that satisfies every individual’s situation is a lofty goal. For now, she hopes the system will continue to get more streamlined and as many people as possible will enroll before March 31. After March 31, guides will continue to help people enroll in Medicaid, which continues year-round.

Enrollment Numbers

According to Connect For Health Colorado, enrollment was slow on the state exchange website (ConnectForHealthCO.com) at the beginning, but it picked up around mid-November, slowed again and has increased as the deadline nears.

Nearly 3.3 million Americans have signed up since October, short of the administration’s 7 million goal, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Nearly 208,000 Coloradans have signed up through the state health insurance exchange website. California leads the nation with 728,000 enrollees.

Throughout the enrollment period, nearly half of the sign-ups have been people ages 45 to 64. The 18 to 34 age group has been the lowest.

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Troy Guard, Dad Next Door and Owner of Six Denver Restaurants



Stapleton resident Troy Guard at his LoDo restaurant, Los Chingones.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

On any given Sunday, you can find Troy Guard, his wife Nikki, and their 4-year-old daughter Grace grabbing breakfast, riding bikes, playing in the park and generally hanging around their Stapleton neighborhood. But the rest of the week he's in full-on restaurant mode. After having lived and worked all over the world, the chef and restaurateur has made Denver his home and hub for his six restaurants.

TAG, TAG Raw Bar, Los Chingones, Sugarmill and the newest, Guard and Grace (opening in March), are located in downtown Denver with TAG Burger Bar in Congress Park. Because much of his time is spent downtown, going between restaurants, taking care of the business side of things and working in the kitchen, living in Stapleton the past two years gives Guard the respite he needs from his rigorous schedule.

In a typical week, Guard makes the rounds of his restaurants during the day, cooking at them on a rotating basis three or four

nights a week, with Sunday his only full day off. Since Guard's time is so scheduled, he sets aside two afternoons a week to pick up his daughter from school to have some father/daughter time, hanging out at home and cooking dinner together, usually something grilled with a salad. The family eats out a lot too, at a variety of area restaurants or at one of Guard's, where Nikki is the food and beverage manager for the restaurant group. Grace knows the staff at each of the restaurants and loves to order for herself.

The family also frequents a variety of Asian restaurants on S. Federal Blvd. where the cuisine reminds Guard of his early years in the restaurant business. Born in Hawaii, Guard moved with his family to Seattle when he was 7 years old, San Diego when he was 14 (and where he started working in restaurants) and then back to Hawaii at 21. Although he notes the irony of the number seven in all of those moves, it wasn't luck but hard work that ultimately landed Guard restaurant jobs in Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore and New York before moving to Denver—all without having attended culinary

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school. “I would never say (culinary) school is not beneficial, but for me, I didn’t have the opportunity to do it so I just worked really hard and worked my way up,” he says.

Despite his childhood dream of becoming a quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, dashed because “I didn’t grow,” Guard always tried to work with excellent chefs to further his education and restaurant career. That included Chef Richard Sandoval, who owns restaurants internationally. Sandoval offered Guard the opportunity to be his partner in opening Zengo in Denver.

Guard’s main concern about moving to Denver was that it wasn’t by water, a concern for someone who had never been landlocked. “Pretty much from the minute I moved here, I loved it, though, because of the sunshine, the people and it has a great vibe to it,” Guard says. “Even though I’ve lived in big cities and love the energy, after traveling and working in all those places, it was nice to come here. It just feels really comfortable.”

Each of Guard’s restaurants has a different concept based on what he enjoys eating and what he thinks the residents of each area would like. “It would be a lot easier to have all of one kind of restaurant,” Guard says. “It’s hard to produce something from scratch, but I like to try new things and put myself out there.” Opening each restaurant with the help of investors, loans and his own money (the first restaurant, TAG, was opened with a

loan from his parents), Guard isn’t worried about the expansion of his restaurant empire. “There’s always room for good products.”

He has opened the majority of his restaurants downtown because it draws a combination of business people, travelers and residents from all over. “It’s about what the people want in a neighborhood. I look at where there’s a need,” he says. Guard feels that neighborhood

need includes Stapleton and is keeping an eye out for the right space. That would make another lucky seven in Guard’s life, but the number of restaurants in his collection isn’t his goal.

With the opening of Guard and Grace, he will be responsible for 250 employees. He’s proud of having provided jobs and for contributing nearly \$100,000 each year in both time and resources to the community including his annual involvement cooking at the Superbowl for Taste of NFL benefitting

Food Bank of the Rockies. The TAG Restaurant Group marketing director works with the community to identify good partnerships for local charities and events. Guard says, “I just want to make a good mark for my staff, my community and my daughter.”



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Our Legislators' Goals for 2014

By Carol Roberts

The *Front Porch* asked the five legislators who represent our distribution area to share their thoughts on the most important bills they hope will get passed this legislative session.

Every year, the biggest bill they have to pass is the state budget. After the lean years of the recession when cuts were made in many areas, legislators this year are optimistic about the slow and steady growth in the economy and tax revenue collections that are enabling them to think about programs to fund rather than focusing so much energy on decisions about cuts.

K-12 Education

All five legislators listed education as one of their top priorities. Education is 35% of the state budget, the single biggest expenditure—about \$8-9 billion. There are two main components to funding education, the basic per pupil funding required by law, which Sen. Pat Steadman is working on, and additional funding for education in specific areas.

After the failure of Amendment 66 on the last ballot, Sen. Johnston is sponsoring the \$303-million Student Success Act to provide revenue for some of the priorities that were identified in Amendment 66, including funds for: helping districts recover from the years of cuts (which will help restore some of the athletics, music and arts programs); addressing the needs of struggling readers; charter facilities; English Language Learners; kindergarten facilities; and technology.

\$100 million of the above bill is proposed as a one-time expenditure for implementation of assessments, evaluations, technology and school safety as well as additional funding on a per pupil basis.

\$15 million of the bill is proposed as a one time expenditure to improve transparency and reward schools that enroll students after the count date. Currently schools that enroll new students after the single day count in the fall suffer from not being funded for those students. The bill proposes to create a data collection system for tracking average daily attendance throughout the year, with phase in and testing the system for several years before changing over to funding based on average daily attendance.

Higher Education

After years of cuts to higher education, several of our legislators talked about the importance of making college more affordable. A bill has passed the Senate Education Committee to put \$100 million into higher education for scholarships and increase the amount of direct funding students take with them to a state college by \$1,000. Efforts are also being made to put a cap on tuition hikes.



State Representative Angela Williams represents district 7, which includes all but two Stapleton precincts and Park Hill from Quebec to Monaco (south to Montview).



State Representative Beth McCann represents district 8, which includes all of Park Hill from Locust to Colorado Blvd., Hale, East Colfax, and two precincts in Stapleton just north of Montview and east of Central Park Blvd.



State Representative Lois Court represents district 6, which includes all of Lowry, East Montclair, Montclair and Mayfair.

The Economy

Tax on Internet sales—Rep. Court and Sen. Johnston point out that it is unfair to Colorado businesses who pay property and sales tax that Internet businesses with no physical presence in the state don't pay Colorado tax. They were hopeful that Colorado could start collecting state sales tax on Internet sales, but a Denver judge has, at least temporarily, stopped the state from enforcing the 2010 Colorado law to collect those taxes. That law was challenged in court by a trade organization representing businesses.

Broadband for rural areas—Colorado has had a fee on phone bills that creates a \$55 million/year fund to subsidize construction of phone lines to rural parts of the state. Today Internet is the crucial technology that will allow rural parts of the state to run businesses, have better access to health care and improve educational opportunities. Rep. Williams and Sen. Johnston are working on a bill that will designate a fund for broadband rather than phone lines to be built with that fund to help improve the economy in rural areas.

Tax credits—Tax credits come in many forms, some benefitting businesses, some benefitting individuals, some benefitting specific groups like historic preservation. Sen. Steadman points out the importance of looking at the big picture on tax policy in the state, not just looking at these bills one by one. Several of our legislators pointed out that child care credits not only benefit families, they are also a big economic stimulus. Families that qualify for tax credits immediately put that money right back into the economy for daily expenses.

Rep. Williams points out the benefits of the advanced industries program to bring aerospace, manufacturing and energy businesses to the state. To help small businesses she is working on a bill that will give a credit for taxes owed on the first \$25,000 in business personal property.

State infrastructure—One time expenditures to improve state infrastructure can give a boost to the economy without adding an ongoing expense to the state budget. Construction on college campuses, state buildings and development of new computer systems all provide an economic stimulus. Sen. Steadman describes a major project to modernize the state-wide computer system of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The current system is 30 years old and only runs 84% of the time so many residents arrive to get a license or plates and find a note that the system is down. Today wait times average an hour—the new system should reduce wait times to 15 minutes.

Health

Rep. McCann is working on a bill that will improve prescription drug monitoring. Nationally more people die from prescription drug overdoses than traffic accidents and Colorado is the second highest in reported prescription drug misuse. She is proposing a bill that requires those who write and fill prescriptions for narcotic drugs to register in a database, though, data entry will be voluntary. Other states have found that similar voluntary systems have been successful in tracking misuse of prescription drugs.



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State Senator Mike Johnston represents District 33, which includes Stapleton and Park Hill.



State Senator Pat Steadman represents District 3, which includes Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and Lowry.

Rep. McCann is proposing a bill to prohibit tobacco sales to those under 18 years. Because many people start smoking young, then spend years trying to quit, she hopes this bill will prevent some young people from starting.

Rep. McCann is also sponsoring a bill that would allow emergency responders to stabilize a pet until they can be taken to a vet. They currently don't have the authority to do that.

An additional health bill by Rep. McCann calls for setting up a state commission on how to control health care costs.

Consumer Protections
Reps. Williams and McCann both continue to work on foreclosure issues. One bill requires that any overpayments made by consumers as they deal with foreclosures must be returned to the consumer, not kept by the lender. Another bill gives consumers an additional 90 days to work with the lender to avoid foreclosure.

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Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed



Left: Interactive screens allow museum-goers to write their own Maya name by combining glyphs. Visitors can hear the name by pressing an audio button. Below: Altars such as this one are found at all Maya sites. The altars commemorated important occasions and served as the place for elaborate sacrifices—including human offerings—to the gods.

Left: Large stone slabs called Stelae from 731 AD map out the Maya territory. Above: Ceiling lights illuminate the meaning of glyphs (Maya script) and images found on Stelae.



By Courtney Drake-McDonough
Colorado residents are among the first to get to know their neighbors to the south—way south—through the first exhibition to be held in the new Morgridge Family Exploration Center at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

“Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed” examines the Maya culture, which Michele Koons, PhD, curator of archeology, feels is exciting not only because it was a very advanced, ancient civilization, but because of the culture’s close proximity to Colorado, a nonstop flight away. “It’s very foreign in some ways, but we’re also so close

geographically that it’s exciting and actually quite accessible. People can be enticed by what they see here.” Working with the Science Museum of Minnesota, the exhibit represents the first time the Denver Museum of Nature & Science has co-created a traveling exhibition. The two museums collaborated with

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Clockwise from far left: Ceiling lights show how the Maya structures were originally brightly colored; A large burial pit (for what must have been a prestigious Maya noble) stores treasures for the afterlife; A young museum visitor lifts a heavy rubber ball like those used in a Maya game resembling basketball; Michele Koons, DMNS curator of archaeology, works on an excavation site.

institutions across the U.S. and with antiquities entities in Belize to select 250 artifacts, making it the largest exhibition on the Maya ever to be displayed in the U.S. Members of the museums' teams went to Belize to experience sites firsthand. "We traveled into watery caves in the dark with headlamps on and up into the higher areas where ritual sacrifices occurred," says Jennifer Moss Logan, lead educator for the exhibition. "We had the experiences for ourselves so that's why we can bring them so realistically through our environment to our visitors." In addition to artifacts, there are also replicas to touch and interact with. Images are projected onto two tall replicas of "Stelae," outlining the details of the glyphs, displaying the Mayan language and the translation, making it easier for visitors to understand what they are seeing. In another room, colors are projected onto a large, gray replica of a temple. Originally very colorful, the light "virtually paints (the temple) to restore it to show how it would have looked," says Moss Logan. Although intended for the whole family, Moss Logan says children ages 8 and older will appreciate recurring mathematical themes, so important to the Maya. Throughout the exhibit, visitors can spot artifacts with dots representing the number 1 and long bars representing the number 5. Children can put their birthdate into the Maya calendar or create their Maya name to print out and take home. There are also opportunities for kids to build things, see what Maya life was like and see games played with the first rubber balls. Volunteers are positioned throughout the exhibition to share information, answer questions and guide activities at Exploration Stations. The entire exhibit is bilingual, a salute not only to the Maya people but also to the large Mexican and Central American populations in

Colorado. In one room, visitors can pretend to be archeologists, virtually excavating an actual tomb. Using a large touch screen, dirt can be brushed away revealing skeletons and artifacts underneath. Notes about what the items are, as well as pages from archeologists' actual notebooks from the site become visible. "It's completely, scientifically accurate, so the excitement of discovery can be had by the entire family without ever having to get a fingernail dirty!" Koons says. That glimpse into the science of archeology is deliberate. "We highlight the steps we (archeologists) go through to make these discoveries and how different techniques are being used to get more information about the past to reflect on what we're doing today," says Koons, citing the Mayan's deforestation of their landscape that eventually contributed to the downfall of the classic Maya. The message of archeological preservation is present throughout the exhibition. "Looting of sites is a huge problem throughout the whole world, so it's really important to instill how important it is to preserve them through exhibitions like this," says Koons. "Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed" is the inaugural exhibition to be held in the Center's new combined Anschutz Gallery and adjoining Phipps Special Exhibits Gallery. Either gallery can hold its own exhibition or can join to create 20,000 square feet of space for larger exhibits such as this one. "Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed" debuted at co-creator's Science Museum of Minnesota and will be in Denver until August 24. It will then travel to the Museum of Science, Boston and San Diego Natural History Museum. The hope is that the exhibit will continue to travel around the U.S., which will bring revenue to the Denver Museum of

Nature & Science. "Visitors will have a chance to experience an incredible culture from the past that continues on through today," says Moss Logan. "We're very proud." "Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed" is a ticketed event with discounts for museum members.

Celebrate Maya and other Mesoamerican cultures with live dance performances, artists, activities and crafts to take home. Mar. 21–Apr. 4 (spring break) and throughout the run of the exhibition. www.dmns.org/maya.

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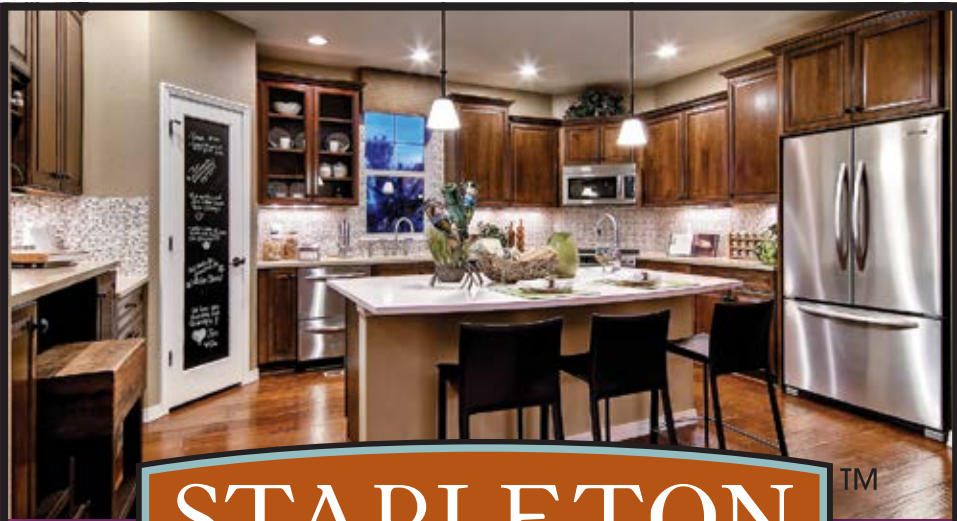


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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film that is available on DVD or an instant-streaming service.

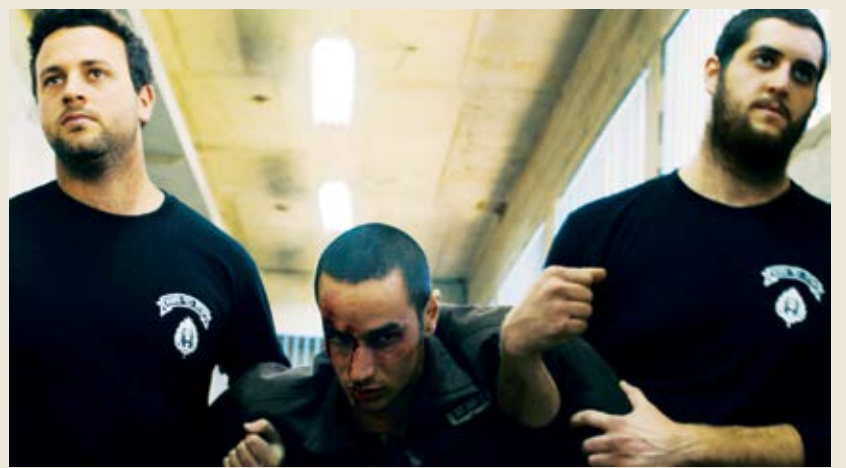
Follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Omar (2013)

A sweet romance between two young lovers living in the occupied West Bank? Or a firm political comment on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict as told from the Palestinian side? Hany Abu-Assad's Oscar-nominated film from Palestine is really both of these films, and the juxtaposition of these two stories is its strength: it is not so much political as it is humanist. It is both a love story and the story of a situation that has no easy answer. The film does not attempt to give us any.

There are, and will be, certain objections to the film. One can easily see the film as one sided (from the Palestinian view) and as depicting the Israelis as bloodthirsty torturers intent on turning the Palestinians against each other. Indeed, the film does portray the Israelis as such, and the criticisms are founded. But all films are one sided, and a great, Academy Award-winning director once told me that every director has a slant, and every film is told through that slant. Once you understand that, you have to see the film *as a film*.

The direction is nothing short of spectacular: the story is intriguing, the acting is real, the settings are well crafted, and the cinematography tells a visual story. The film also keeps us guessing until the last shot, and that last shot is quite illuminating, if not stunning. The filmic influences are abundant: the Western, *Film Noir*, Hitchcock, and *The Battle of Algiers*—a classic film about the Algerian resistance against French occupation. All play their part well.



Scene from Omar

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The Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film is a stellar category this year. My personal pick in the category is *The Great Beauty*. I would not be surprised, however, if *Omar* pulls the upset. It is a wonderful film.

Starts at the Mayan Theater on March 7.
You will like this film if you enjoyed *The Battle of Algiers*, *Incendies*, or *The Separation*.

The Square (2013)

Revolutions are messy. *The Square*, a 2013 Egyptian/American documentary directed by Jehane Noujaima about the recent Egyptian protests in Tahrir Square, can also be messy at times, but it captures the spirit of the uprisings and the steadfast character of the people involved. The film moves slowly and thoughtfully at times and then is injected with sudden moments of action and violence; the structure, you come to realize, mirrors the process being documented. And it is brilliant.

We begin in Tahrir Square in 2011 and meet the principal characters: Ahmed, a street kid who becomes the conscience of the film; Magdy, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood; and Khalid, a famous actor from the upper class who speaks perfect English from years of living in England. The film follows these three characters (and several other, smaller characters) over the course of three years and through all of the upheaval—from Mubarak's ouster to the election of Mohammed Morsi and beyond. The characters are all very different, and while it is a stretch to say they are representative of the larger group, they come to define the larger group for us.

The footage, much of which is shot in the middle of the action, is beautiful and stunning. Intercut is footage of the Army chief and other Egyptian military figures—most of which serves

to highlight their deep hypocrisy. While there is disturbing footage of police attacks and bleeding bodies, the most disturbing footage is of these leaders lying directly to their people. Overall, cinematography and editing work together to fuse style and content.

Filmmaker Noujaima was jailed at one point during the protests; she was also shot at, gassed, and trampled. The making of the film mirrors the events it documents, and it is for this reason



Scene from *The Square*

that the film is so compelling. We've seen many stories and films on the Arab Spring, but this one has realism, urgency, and humanity that others miss. The film is banned in Egypt, and it is nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Whether the film wins or not is irrelevant; it is still one of the most urgent documentaries to grace the screen in a long time.

This film is available on Netflix.
You will like this film if you enjoyed *Dirty Wars*, *The Cove*, or *Food Inc.*

This film, along with all other films I've reviewed, can be found at the Sam Gary Library. Look for the Indie Prof display at the end of the DVD racks. You can also find this film under the Criterion Collection on Hulu Plus.

Vincent Piturro, PhD, teaches Cinema Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at vpiturro@msudenver.edu

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Just the Facts

2014: The year of lightbulb extinction?

by James Hagadorn



Did you hear? Incandescent light bulbs are banned. Are Second Amendment rights next? Or even worse—will we all soon look like zombies in our bathroom mirrors?

Luckily the answer is “no” to all the above. But given the prevalence of conflicting information about the incandescent bulb phaseout, it’s worth shedding light on the issue.

The issue: those cheap light bulbs that you’re accustomed to using are disappearing.

Their disappearance is a signature element of George W. Bush’s Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA). EISA aims to reduce gasoline consumption to increase energy security, mitigate climate change and improve air quality and human health. Because only 5 percent of a traditional light bulb’s energy goes toward producing light and the rest is wasted as heat, bulbs that can’t improve their efficiency are being phased out. This means all “general-use” 40 to 100 watt incandescent bulbs. All major bulb manufacturers lobbied for this phaseout, likely because such bulbs aren’t very profitable.

EISA prohibits companies from importing or manufacturing inefficient “general-use” bulbs. Ownership or use of such bulbs isn’t banned. Nor is manufacture or import of “specialized” bulbs like those in your fridge, oven, chandelier or flood lights.

Are we alone in adopting these standards? Nope. Our policies mimic those of Europe, Russia and China. Yes, China. Planning to drive across the border to stock up on vintage incandescents? Sorry, but Mexico and Canada’s bulb policies go into place this year, too.

So what’s all the fuss? Mostly it’s that folks don’t like the government telling them what they can and can’t do.

Even some tree-hugging Boulderites feel like they’ve been backed into a corner, because early incandescent alternatives stunk.



Incandescent



Compact Fluorescent



LED

Replacement halogen, compact fluorescent (CFL) and light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs were plagued by high cost, ghostly pallor and Pac-Man flicker.

Today’s halogen bulbs, now repackaged as “eco-” or “high-efficiency” incandescents, are touted for their ability to produce similar light to traditional bulbs. But because they’re only slightly more energy-efficient than traditional incandescents, they too will go the way of the yellow pages when the final EISA

efficiency provisions go into effect in 2020.

CFLs have a reputation for being slow-starting cold-intolerant swirly bluish beasts. Early LEDs weren’t much better. But newer “soft-white” CFLs and LEDs are cheaper, last longer than earlier versions and emit light that’s indistinguishable from incandescents. Despite the EPA concerns about CFL’s mercury content, there’s abundant epidemiological and environmental data indicating that fear-of-broken-CFL-mercury is overblown. And, rollout of CFLs and LEDs has actually *reduced* public health risks from mercury because they’ve helped reduce electrical demand on power plants—whose widespread emission of airborne mercury comes from burning mercury-tainted coal.

So how do we navigate this bulb morass and make the most of our hard-won time and dollars? Consider the average Coloradan who shops for a top-rated “warm” or “soft”-white bulb at Home Depot. To replace a burned-out bulb used two hours per day in their

kitchen, hallway or porch—payback times and longevity are much shorter.

LEDs are a slam-dunk for outdoor fixtures or ones that are a pain to replace—such as our neighbor’s ceiling fixture that requires yoga-atop-a-ladder to change the bulbs. Because LEDs last 25ish times longer than traditional indoor bulbs, you’ll waste less of your valuable time changing them, and expose yourself to fewer falling risks. But if your pesky fixture is in a hot location, go with CFLs because LEDs perform poorly at high temperatures.

And aesthetics? Despite better light quality, increased longevity and plummeting costs, CFLs still have all the elegance of an ’80s cell-phone brick. Yet they’re inexpensive workhorses, so consider them for spaces where hue isn’t an issue or where quick dimming isn’t essential. Perhaps splurge on warm LEDs for your favorite spots like over

the kitchen table and bathroom mirrors.

Or save some dough by waiting. Remove your still-working incandescents from all nonessential places in your house and save them to use in your favorite spots. Fill the vacancies with cheap CFLs so that by the time you’re out of incandescents, the next-generation LEDs will have

arrived. They’ll be so cheap and dazzling that you’ll forget that lighting was ever an issue in the first place. But if you want to hoard dinosaurs, better rush to your local big-box. Hurry—cheapo incandescents are going fast at only 50 cents a pop!

James W. Hagadorn, PhD, is a scientist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Suggestions and comments are welcome at jwhagadorn@dmns.org

James W. Hagadorn, PhD, is a scientist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Suggestions and comments are welcome at jwhagadorn@dmns.org

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From Runways to Residences—How Stapleton is Developed

By Carol Roberts

Fourteen years after producing the first issue of the *Front Porch*, we have finally created what we hope is a simple graphic so people can, without reading the fine print in contracts and legal documents, understand how the Stapleton development process works. The chart on the next page shows the main entities involved in the process that has turned airport runways into residences—lots of them. The chart looks simple enough, but as we've attended meetings and listened to the many questions and concerns that accompany such an enormous development process, how it all works has not seemed so clear. Councilman Chris Herndon acknowledges the difficulty of understanding all that's involved to make such an undertaking

successful. "Every now and then we just need to remind people of the scope of this project. This is the largest infill development in the country and to have something of this magnitude it is, as you all said, 'sloppy,' and there are not clear lines at times as we move forward. But, everyone has good intentions in ensuring that we have a product that Forest City can be proud of, the City can be proud of, and the constituents that are going to live here. And I'm one of them. I live here. I'm very vested in ensuring that we get this right. I think when the TIF is over we're going to say we did a really good job." For residents with time, and an interest in better understanding the development process and the magnitude of the development, the meetings of all the public entities shown on the chart are open to the public. Although Park Creek Metropolitan District (PCMD), the entity that uses our taxes to build infrastructure, does not allow residents

on the board, residents can be on the board of Westerly Creek Metropolitan District (WCMD), which collects the Stapleton special district tax. WCMD is required to pass all revenue to Park Creek Metro District, so there's not much decision making in the position, but, as former WCMD board member Steve Lawrence explains, "It was a process where I felt my role was to understand what was going on, to ask clarifying questions. I felt it was my responsibility to understand the budget. "There's the opportunity for oversight of a \$60-million tax budget. I felt good about being there. I knew more than my neighbors, and if they had a question they felt comfortable asking me, so there was some kind of conduit there. And I thought that was important enough to at least participate and understand what the process is that's governed by statute. "We were managing the financing of the

building of Stapleton and making sure that near term revenues covered the cost of the debt and the construction of the infrastructure." In the April issue, the *Front Porch* will interview candidates who will be running for seats on WCMD. The election will be held May 6 at 7350 E. 29th Ave, 2nd floor.

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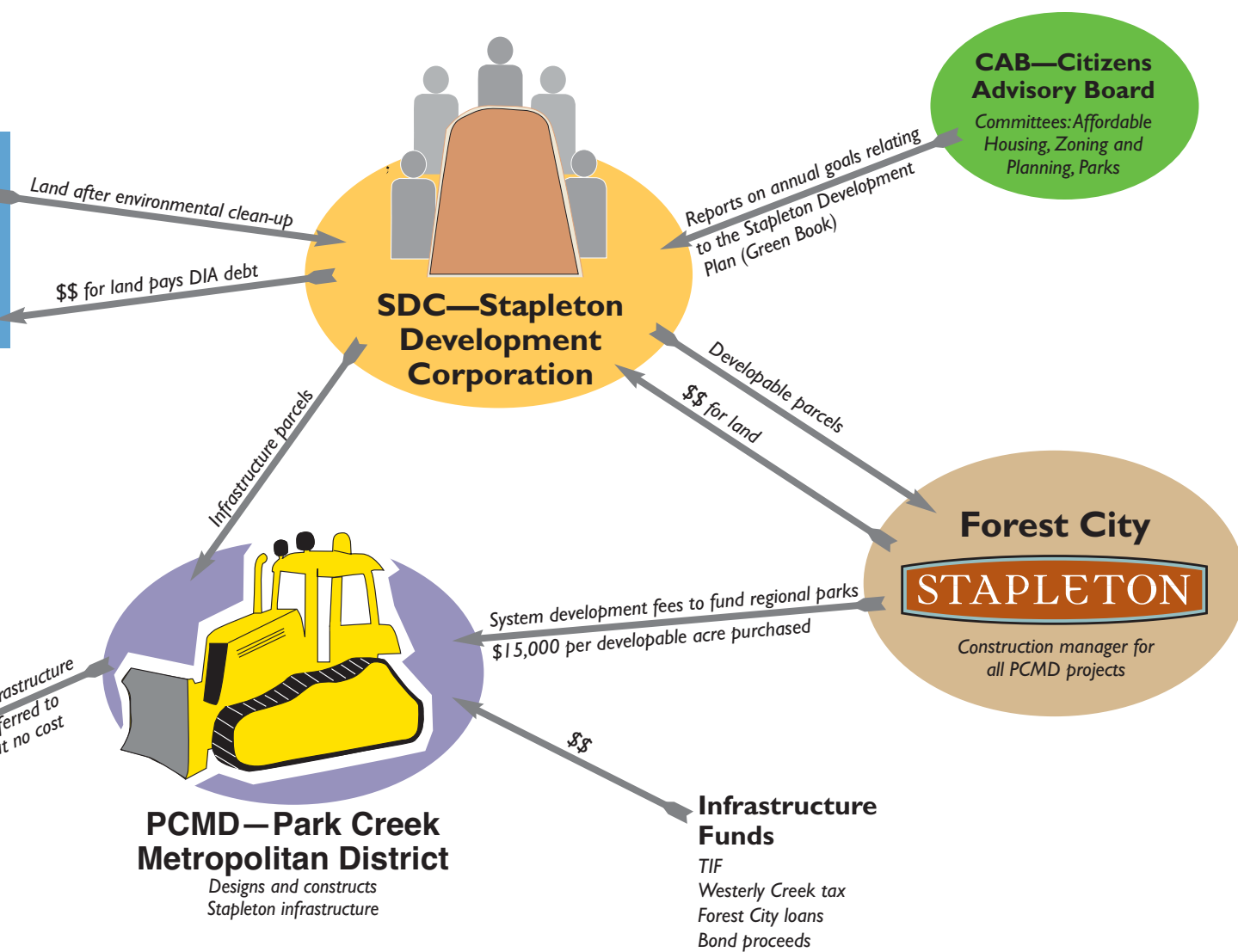


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How Stapleton Is Developed



Forest City, Stapleton's Master Developer, serves as construction manager for Park Creek Metropolitan District (PCMD, see below) and loans money to PCMD when needed to continue the pace of development on infrastructure. As infrastructure is completed, Forest City sells development-ready land to residential and commercial builders and retains ownership of some apartments and commercial properties that it leases.

System Development Fees—Forest City pays an additional \$15,000 per acre (over and beyond the purchase price of developable land), which funds regional parks.

The Park Creek Metro District's (PCMD) main role is to get the Stapleton infrastructure built. It, like all special districts in Colorado is regulated by state law and operates according to a service plan that defines its purpose, scope and funding. PCMD uses the funds from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Westerly Creek Metro District mill levies (both explained in the February Front Porch), along with System Development Fees, loans from the developer, and bonds or other obligations for the construction.

The 2012 audited financial statement for PCMD showed the total debt at that time was \$341,459,034. The original service plan projected payoff in 2041. The District declined to make a current projection for the payoff date.

Official PCMD documents that must be filed with the state, can be found online at dola.colorado.gov > Division of Local Government > Local Government Information System.

The PCMD board is comprised of five elected members; two are electors through Forest City and three are electors through SDC. Only those who own property within the boundaries of PCMD are eligible to vote or be a director. The boundary of the District is a 16-acre plot along the south side of I-70 west of Havana with five contracts for ownership, three of which go to SDC members, two to Forest City. This arrangement was set up to bring community representation to the board since many special district boards are 100% developers. On the PCMD board, the community is represented through the SDC-appointed members, though these members do not have an obligation to discuss their votes with SDC.

After trunk open space is developed and transferred to the city, local open space will continue to be owned in perpetuity by PCMD. Even after infrastructure debt is paid, Westerly Creek Metro District tax assessments will continue for maintenance of that property and special district operating expenses.

PCMD meetings, held the 4th Thursday of the month at 9am, are open to the public. Location is 7350 E. 29th Ave, 2nd floor.

1995—Stapleton airport decommissioned and DIA opens

1995—Denver City Council unanimously approves Green Book as part of Denver's Comprehensive Plan

1995—Stapleton Development Corp. (SDC) is formed by City Council ordinance.

1998—Denver signs Master Lease and Disposition agreement (MLD) giving SDC authority to sell Stapleton land

2000—SDC selects Forest City as Master Developer

2000—WCMD, PCMD and TIF are formed.

2025—TIF funding ends

Completion of development will depend on market factors

2041—Original estimate for when PCMD debt will be paid off (no current estimate available).

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Environmentally Conscious Simple Style

By Nancy Burkhart

With more people becoming environmentally conscious and creating a “green” life for themselves, Amy Adams wanted to create a women’s boutique that offers natural products. Her store, Semplice, which means “simple style,” has recently moved to the E. 29th Ave. Town Center in Stapleton.

“I started because I wanted women to have a variety of natural choices,” Adams said. “I wanted the best products and the best quality at the most reasonable prices without being made in sweatshops. So, many of my things are made locally.

“We offer home goods, bedding, pillows, comforters, candles, lotion, vegan shoes and boots, faux leather jackets, and vegan purses,” she said. “There are no animal components involved. We have dresses, skirts, tank tops, yoga wear, blouses, jeans, and capris in Xsmall, small, medium, large and some Xlarge. I don’t have plus sizes.”

Adams is in her 40s and says most of her customers are in

their 30s and 40s and have children. “My customer is someone who is active,” she said. “I do have a lot of people who shop for gifts. But I have people who are very sports-oriented or are athletes. The clothing is eclectic, bohemian style. It’s nothing you’re going to see in any other store, and certainly not in the mall.”

Semplice was located in Lowry for four years. However, Adams, her partner, Jason Walton, and her children, 8-year-old Jack Crabtree and 6-year-old Luca Crabtree, live in Stapleton. Jack and Luca attend Westerly Creek Elementary School.

“It just made sense to create a business for the place I call home,” Adams said. “Stapleton is closer to home and school.”

And, Frida, a 3-year-old Alaskan Malamute who weighs about 120 lbs., helps out at Semplice on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

“She is a great runner,” Adams said. “You can put a harness on her

and she can run faster than I can run. If



Semplice sells a variety of items from pillows and bedding to vegan shoes and purses.



Semplice owner Amy Adams adjusts clothes on a rack in her new Stapleton store.

anyone needs to borrow her to run and get motivated, they sure can. She’s very mellow. She’s a gentle giant. She just lies on the floor and sleeps most of the day. I rescued her in Seattle when she was eight weeks old. I sponsor North Star Rescue in Fort Collins, which saves Huskies and Malamutes. There is a huge need for foster families for the rescued.”

Semplice donates 1 percent of its sales to

North Star Rescue.

Semplice, located at 7487 E. 29th Place, is closed Mondays, and open 10am to 5pm Tues., Wed. and Thurs.; 10am to 6:30pm on Sat.; and 10am to 5pm on Sun.

For further information on Semplice, go to www.semplice.co.com or call 303.399.4447. Email Amy Adams at semplicellc@qwestoffice.net.

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New Pediatrics Office Opens in Stapleton

By Nancy Burkhardt

Advanced Pediatric Associates, a primary healthcare office for children and adolescents that has been in the Denver area since 1972, has a new office in Stapleton at 2373 Central Park Blvd.

"We offer pediatric care from birth to after college," explained Dr. Bradley Kurtz, the office's lead physician. "The practice handles the usual pediatric health concerns, along with sports medicine and minor cuts and injuries. He adds that the practice is also "on the leading edge" of other issues including obesity, attention deficit disorder, mental health, depression, anxiety, and mood disorders.

Kurtz understands how important it is to parents to know that they can get medical care for their child when needed. "We spend a lot of time trying to ensure that people have access to care. We are big enough to meet your needs and small enough to show we care."

The Advanced Pediatric Associates office is open from 8am–5pm Mon. through Fri., and on Saturdays from 8–11am. However, the office will stay open later, if needed, Kurtz said. A physician is on call 24 hours a day. There is an after-hours triage service that can answer questions such as what a Tylenol dosage should be, or to give the patient an opportunity to speak with a physician.

"I live here in Stapleton. This is where I want to work. We are here for people in the community who want to be served in the community," Kurtz said. "I'm 48 years old and I grew up in Park Hill. This is an area that I've seen change over time. Being able to be a pediatrician and work with my community is kind of a dream

come true."

Kurtz and his wife, Emai, live in Stapleton with their sons, 5-year-old Bailey and 4-year-old Max. Kurtz' father, Dr. Michael Kurtz, was chief resident at Children's Hospital before starting Advanced Pediatric Associates in 1972. Dr. Bradley Kurtz believes that as his father "starts to slow down a little bit, he's going to work at Stapleton."

"It really is a family-oriented practice," Kurtz said. "Our patients will see me on the running trails and at all the local haunts. I hope my kids don't run over them with their bicycles."

Advanced Pediatric Associates has an extensive website: www.advancedpediatricassociates.com.

"We encourage people to use that quite a bit," Kurtz said. "It has quite a bit of information that will help to tell them, 'Is my



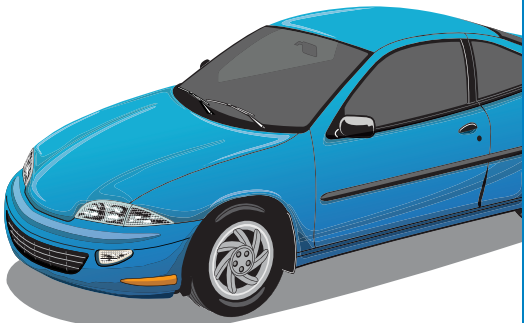
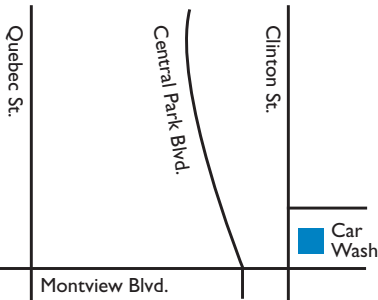
Doctors with Advanced Pediatric Associates gather in the play area of their new location on Central Park Blvd. Back left to right: Bradley Kurtz, DO and Kimberly Thomas, CHA/PA-C. Front left to right: Bethany Carvajal, MD and Alison Auster, MD.

child sick?' There are portals that allow them to request emails, prescription refills, and access their medical records. And they can download and print immunization records."

Advanced Pediatric Associates also has a central scheduling telephone line: 303.699.6200 where they will be triaged and can get answers to medical questions as well as make appointments.

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Get to Know Dr. Sarah Appleton

Sarah Appleton attended medical school at Penn State University and trained at University of California, San Diego. Sarah lives in Stapleton with her husband and son.



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Liquor Store Features Wine, Beer and Alaskan Malamute

By Nancy Burkhart

When Paul Villella became the new owner of the liquor store in Quebec Square, he knew exactly what the name should be. Vic's Liquors is named after his 130-lb. Alaskan Malamute, Victor.

"I focused the theme of the store around Victor because it seemed like everybody at Stapleton has a dog," Villella explained. "It's a great way to connect with the community. We have so many people who come in the store and take pictures of their kid and Victor. He makes a great mascot and just has a way of making people happy. He loves to be petted and loves treats. I have three boys, and he has some weird connection with kids."

Villella says Vic's carries a large selection of domestic beers and craft beers—and he's taking a green approach to make his store environmentally friendly.

"We have a large selection of wine that will continue to get larger," Villella said. "We're open to what the community wants. In two months, we brought in almost 150 new lines of beers and liquors. We're focusing very much on the consumer who is

looking for that everyday wine or beer. The average price for wine is \$9.99 to \$13.99—but we have a lot of wines less expensive and more expensive than that. Box wines

are really growing right now, and we have one of the largest selections.

"What I love about Stapleton is that we have such a diverse population of custom-

ers. We have things for all different tastes. The liquor store that we replaced focused more on the hotel business than the community. However, I want to focus on the community."

Neighbors might see Villella and Victor at the dog park.

"Victor loves the cold weather especially," Villella said. "I love to run and he can outrun me. As things warm up, I plan to take advantage of the trails around Stapleton. I work out and have also done kick boxing."

Shoppers at Vic's also will get to know Villella's girlfriend, Stephanie Cloven. Villella's sons are 19-year-old Garrett, who attends Colorado State University, 15-year-old Marcus and 11-year-old Peter. Stephanie's children are 13-year-old Keaton and 11-year-old Hayden.

Vic's Liquors, located at 7305 E. 35th Ave. in Quebec Square, is open from 9am to 10pm. Mon. through Thurs.; 9am to midnight Fri. and Sat.; and 10am to 10pm. Sun. For more information, visit www.vicsliquors.com or call 303.322.8427.



Paul Villella and his girlfriend Stephanie Cloven are pictured with Victor, the namesake for their new store, Vic's Liquors, in Quebec Square.

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Oral Surgery Practice Opens on Central Park Blvd.

By Nancy Burkhardt

Colorado Oral Surgery, newly open at 2373 Central Park Blvd., offers a wide range of medical expertise from wisdom tooth removal to corrective jaw surgery.

"A lot of people don't know what oral surgeons do," said Dr. Gregg Lurcott, owner of the practice. "An oral surgeon takes out teeth, does a lot of bone grafting to build a foundation for implants, places dental implants, does jaw surgery and does trauma surgery. We'll take care of head and neck trauma, such as fixing broken eye sockets. We do sedations in the office."

"There are different types of treatment. We give the patients all the treatment options, and they can decide what's best for them," including nonsurgical options, says Lurcott.

During consultations, the doctors help each patient decide the best approach. "A lot of people are missing teeth," says Lurcott. "They used to do bridges made in a lab to replace a missing tooth. But a lot of people don't want the adjacent teeth cut down. We put in an implant; then the dentist will put a crown on it a few months later."

Lurcott works with Swedish Medical Center, Medical Center of Aurora and Sky Ridge Medical Center and is on call for trauma patients at those hospitals.

"In an emergency room, as part of a facial trauma team, I handle everything from dog bites to injuries and personal violence," Lurcott says, adding his goal as an oral surgeon is always for patients to regain function and look as normal as



Dr. Gregg Lurcott, left, and Dr. Michael Hale of Colorado Oral Surgery stand in one of the examining rooms at their new Stapleton branch on Central Park Blvd.

possible cosmetically.

About 90 percent of the Colorado Oral Surgery patients are referred by a dentist, orthodontist, root canal specialist or a medical doctor who has found a mouth abnormality.

Lurcott has been in private practice for about 10½ years, spending his first six years of practice in Detroit, Mich.

"I've been in Denver four and a half years," he said. "I

Lurcott has been married to his high school sweetheart, Rebecca, for 15 years. She is an ophthalmologist in Boulder. Their children are: 11-year-old Reese, 9-year-old Max, and 7-year-old Josee. Lurcott is an avid snowboarder and spends time on the slopes in Summit County when he can get away.

For further information about Colorado Oral Surgery, visit www.coloradooralsurgery.com or call 303.955.5587.

came here because of the weather and the economy. The winters in Michigan are very difficult and we don't have the big mountains there. Denver's one of the nicest cities in the world. It's easy to meet people here."

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Construction of the ECE-5th Grade Isabella Bird Community School is underway and beginning to resemble its green sustainable vision (rendering at left). The building sits on a 10-acre plot and has wide open spaces with lots of sunlight, according to Izzi B parent and design advisory board member, Juli Pearson.



Isabella Bird

(continued from page 8) teaches Mindful Movement, a morning class that gets kids ready to learn through breathing, stretching and strengthening. She will continue the program next year.

With its new larger facility, the school will offer workshops for parents on the language and instructional strategies used in classrooms so they can use them at home.

Parents will also have the opportunity to help teach on Fridays

in the exploratory program when adults share their expertise.

With hopes that Isabella Bird can potentially expand through eighth grade,

the auditorium and cafeteria were designed to accommodate a middle school.

With an emphasis on diversity—currently 37 percent minority—Isabella Bird will become a Newcomer Center in 2015. Newcomer students are usually immigrants with little or no English skills and may have limited experience in a classroom. Increasingly, newcomer school centers are popping up around the country.

“I’m looking forward to the stories, perspectives and experiences the kids—not just the newcomer students—will bring to the school,” Zinn says.

Zinn is looking forward to working with older grades again—

something she has missed since her previous leadership job at Horizons K-8 School in Boulder, where she still lives and commutes from—the difficult part of the job.

At the beginning of the school year, younger and older students will be paired to start building relationships. Because younger students have the better sense of the school, they will help teach what it means to be a part of Isabella Bird.

“We’ve got a couple of kids who could run our school tours,” Zinn says and laughs. “They just get it and like to tell people about it.”

According to Zinn, administration is currently preparing for a “rigorous” process of interviews and applications to fill eight classroom positions, as well as art and music positions. For more information, visit the Isabella Bird Community School Facebook page.

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Teaching

(continued from page 8) understand what it is like from the teachers' perspective. Westerly Creek teachers applied to be in the pilot program and the school was chosen to participate. Fifth grade math teacher Alicia Fajohn, who was selected to be a team leader, says Westerly Creek has benefitted from participating in this program, which DPS calls "Differentiated Roles." Westerly Creek's goals for the program were developed by a core group of the staff and successfully implemented by teachers throughout the school. Fajohn works with 2nd and 4th grade teachers on skills the teachers want to develop. She helps others develop their own expertise, saying she sees the teachers, not herself, as the experts. Fajohn cites the 2nd grade teachers as an example of how the program works. They wanted to help their students develop their own "voice"—to learn to listen critically, express their own ideas effectively, and to disagree respectfully. Once the teachers identified their goal, Fajohn asked them to work together to identify strategies to help students achieve that goal.

As teachers used their strategies with the students, Fajohn observed how the students were responding. When she was in the classroom and heard comments like, "I respectfully disagree that the ugly duckling was the ugliest duckling," Fajohn could see the students were developing "their voice" and communicating with each other on a more advanced level. Fajohn shared the work and the progress of the 2nd graders with the 4th grade team—and they decided to adapt similar strategies to develop core math skills for the 4th graders. Fajohn says she saw the same success in the 4th grade classrooms, with students asking higher level questions that showed they were listening and thinking more critically. Other Westerly Creek teachers chosen to be team leaders in the pilot program are Marie Gruber, 5th grade math and science; America Bateman, literacy intervention; and Yaisa Banek, the site assessment leader. An additional benefit for the team leaders in this program is it offers an opportunity for them to determine if they might want to go on to become administrators. "Differentiated Roles," is a two-year program that

started this past fall in 14 DPS schools. Hallett, in Park Hill, also participated in the program. The district is expanding the program next year to include 27 more schools, including Ashley, Bill Roberts, HTEC Elementary and Swigert. Teachers in DPS are asked three times a year to evaluate what is happening in their schools. In the Differentiated Roles pilot schools, 88% of teachers agreed that principals distribute leadership effectively. In schools without the pilot, 75% of teachers made that statement. Fajohn points out that principals do not have the time team leaders have to observe classes and meet with teachers. She observes the teachers on her teams approximately 20 times during the year. Her goal is to meet with teachers the week following each observation to discuss progress toward their educational goals. The Differentiated Roles program at Westerly Creek, as with all schools in the program, was built by and for the teachers at their own school. Fajohn believes the program has increased the effectiveness of teachers at Westerly Creek and that teachers have learned "to use each other as resources more than ever before." By working

together, they are improving their skills and at the same time helping students take ownership of their learning and to improve their skills. Linda Katchen is a retired teacher who worked in both Jefferson County and Denver Public Schools.

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Meet the Kids

Fourth Graders Invent Holidays

Oddball, endearing and quirky answers to life's questions

By Madeline Schroeder

It seems as if there is a holiday for everything. March is full of them—If Pets Had Thumbs Day, Incredible Kid Day, Doctor’s Day, National Pig Day. March 26 is Make Your Own Holiday Day, so this month fourth graders at Swigert Elementary invented holidays.

Cat Day *Invented by Thomas Newell*
Cat Day is an optional holiday.

Cats are awesome. I only have one, but I wish I had more.

On Cat Day, you celebrate cats and cat relatives like tigers. You eat sushi because cats like fish. If you don’t have a cat, you can go to the adoption center where they have playpens and you can play with the cats.

Any place whose national animal is a cat has to celebrate.

Yay Day *Invented by Corey Shively*
On Yay Day you give people presents, but I’m not just renaming Christmas.

You eat anything as long as you can write out ‘Yay.’ So you can eat a piece of spaghetti.

—What about bacon? —Thomas asks. (He refers to Corey as the “Wild Shively” for his funny comments)

Yes, bacon is OK.

You decorate your house with anything basically; you can put up zombie apocalypse decorations.

I know that scientists haven’t found this to be true, but if you live on Mars, you should find some way to celebrate it. The whole solar system is going to do it.

Everyone’s name on Yay Day is Bob or Phil, even girls.

—That would be so confusing —Noelle says.

It might get confusing, yes.

You also have to drink overpriced coffee. You go to Starbucks. You pay a lot, give a blank look, and say, ‘Yay.’



Every four hours you have to go outside and do a backflip. If you don’t do a backflip you learn on Yay Day. And when Yay Day is over, we shall celebrate again. And if you don’t celebrate, you will be put to sleep.

—Did you say put to sleep? —Noelle asks.

Yep, I sure did.

—I’ll make sure to move away on Yay Day— Noelle says.

Figure Skating Day *Invented by Noelle Rithner*
On Figure Skating Day everyone will go ice-skating, and all the rinks are open.

I really like figure skating (she wears glittery ice-skate earrings).

You can wear whatever you want.

Wherever I live, that state has to celebrate. It’s in March because that’s my birthday month.

—If our holidays fell on the same day, we would have a day like Yice-day. Yay-ice skate day —Corey says.

National Snow Day *Invented by William Lanoha*
You have to spend at least 10 hours in the snow skiing, snowboarding or sledding.

—What about jumping off a hill into snow like my brother and I do? —Corey asks.

Yes, that’s considered an event.

You can only eat things cold. If you are going to eat a turkey it has to be frozen (the group laughs). You can eat ice cream, icees, and slushies.

I love the cold. Cold is my friend.

Anything warm is forbidden. Any shelter during a snowstorm is forbid-

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Avg. days on market	57	41	-28.1%	Avg. days on market	67	40	-40.3%	Avg. days on market	46	31	-32.6%	
% of negotiation	1%	1.4%	40%	% of negotiation	1.7%	1%	-70%	% of negotiation	2.7%	<1%	-62.9%	
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Fourth graders at Swigert Elementary, L to R: Corey Shively, William Lanoha, Noelle Rithner, Thomas Newell, Kasey Montgomery and Sidra Eskins.

den, including igloos. Depending on the weather, I'd probably stay in Colorado or go to the North Pole.

—That would be fun, until I get freezer burn— Corey says.

Wait, that's not right. Frost bite! (the group laughs)

Big Sister Day *Invented by Kasey Montgomery*

Big sisters need time to rest because it's just so hard. I have a 5-year-old brother. Our little siblings, they are annoying. He goes into my room without asking. He jumps on my bed sometimes. He gets in trouble (she grins).

On Big Sister Day, little brothers cannot go anywhere. Big sisters can go somewhere where there are no little brothers. I'll go to a spa.

The holiday is not optional. It's necessary.

—What about boys? —William asks.

You can have another day.

The holiday is every week. It needs to be constant because big sisters can't take all that pressure.

Pet Day *Invented by Sidra Eskins*

You stay with your pets all day.

I have two dogs.

You hang out all day and decorate your house if you want. I would do it sort of like a birthday party.

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EVENTS

Denver Museum of Nature & Science Phipps IMAX and Planetarium Shows

Feb. 14-June 5

Jerusalem

Jerusalem may not come to mind as a tourist destination, but *Jerusalem* the IMAX intrigues otherwise. The 3D movie immerses the viewer in the colors, foods and people of the very diverse city—a tiny piece of land that cradles three major regions—Africa, Asia and Europe. For show times and prices visit dmns.org.

Journey to the South Pacific

3D National Geographic views of tropical lands and underwater life will most likely never get old. On a typical day in West Papua off Indonesia, children dive into the ocean for a swim, women push wheel barrels filled with coconuts, and young boys collect oysters and clams to cook. The reef is the heart of life in West Papua. To learn about the importance of protecting the reef, a young boy goes on a 2-month trip where he saves sea turtles and even dives with whale sharks. Extremely family friendly, the show delights all. For show times and prices visit dmns.org.

Perfect Little Planet is best for families with kids elementary or younger. Follow a space creature family's journey through space to find a planet for vacation. The movie is a good introduction to the solar system, and unlike parents who may get queasy, kids will enjoy the 3D animation.

Feb. 14-Aug. 24

Tales of the Maya Skies at the Planetarium begins February 14. Featuring Chichen Itza, one of the last great pre-Columbia cities built by the Maya people, the movie goes back thousands of years. Amazingly, the Maya figured out movements of the sun, moon and planets and created a 365-day calendar. With animations and music, it's a family friendly half an hour—a nice addition to a day spent at the Maya exhibit.

Apr. 13—2nd Annual Race for Open Space

April 13, Bluff Lake Nature Center will have its second annual Race for Open Space. Runners/walkers can do a 5K, 10K or half marathon. All courses wind along Sand Creek Regional Greenway. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.RunningGuru.com/Event/RFOS2014>.



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See Frontporchstapleton.com for events occurring the first week of the month.

ARTWALKS

First Friday Artwalks

Golden Triangle Museum. 5-9pm. www.goldentriangleofdenver.com

Navajo Street Art District. 5-9pm, and weekly gallery openings. www.navajostreetartdistrict.com

North Denver. Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. 6-10pm. www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com

River North (RiNo) Art District. 6-9pm. RiNo starts at Broadway and Walnut St. www.RiverNorthart.com

Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. 5-8pm. www.artdistrictSantaFe.com

Third Friday, Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. 5-8pm. www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com

DENVER METRO EVENTS

2/1 to 3/13—St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Molly Brown House.

Cead Mile Failte Night- One Hundred Thousand Welcomes. Celebrate Irish heritage at Molly Brown House with food, music and Irish traditions. Museum tours included at 6:30pm and 7:30pm. Tickets: www.mollybrown.org

2/1 to 3/15—Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

2/1 to 12/31—Denver Public Art Tours. FREE tours by foot, bike, scooter, for art/architecture lovers. Reservations required. Schedule/signup online. Also download PDF of Denver www.denvergov.org/publicart

3/1 to 12/31—Denver 2-for-1 Tix. Weekly 2 for 1 ticket and admission discounts for metro Denver arts and entertainment. www.denver2for1tix.com

3/1 to 12/31—Denver Urban Homesteading Farmers Market. Indoor, year-round farmers market and homesteading school with local/organic foods. Thurs/Fri 3-7pm, Sat 9am-3pm. 200 Santa Fe Dr. FREE. For classes/seminars: www.denverurbanhomesteading.com

3/1 to 12/31—FREE Wednesday Senior Activities. 1st Wed., 10am, crafts/light lunch; 2nd Wed., 12pm, big lunch/entertainment; 4th Wed., 12pm, light lunch/bingo. RSVP: 303.439.7554 for big lunch. NO WEBSITE

3/1 to 12/31—More ideas on what to do in Denver. www.denver.org

3/1 to 12/31—Swallow Hill Music. Complete listing of concerts, classes, events and festivals www.swallowhillmusic.org

3/7 to 3/9—Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. National Western Complex. www.coloradohorsecouncil.com

3/8 to 3/10—Colorado Crossroads Junior National Volleyball Qualifier Competition. 1,100 teams, 86 courts of girls ages 12-15 youth volleyball competition. Ages 16-18 play 3/14-3/16. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. www.coloradocrossroads.org

3/14 to 3/16—Denver Home Show. National Western Complex. www.homeshowdenver.com

3/14 to 3/16—The Denver Brass Presents Ancient Thread, A Celtic Tapestry. Featuring pipes and drums, fiddles, Irish dancers and more. Newman Center for Performing Arts, Univ. of Denver. 7:30pm. Tickets: \$22-\$44. 303.832.HORN or www.denverbrass.org

3/21 to 3/15—51st Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. 10am. Begins in LoDo and goes through downtown Denver. www.denverstpatrikssdayparade.org

3/21 to 3/23—Denver March Powwow. Denver Coliseum. www.denvermarchpowwow.org

3/29 to 3/8—Colorado Symphony Presents Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

3/29 to 3/20—Four Mile Historic Park History of Transportation. 7-9 pm. Tickets: \$9 members; nonmembers- adults \$15; youth 3-17 \$12. Reservations required: Fourmilepark.org or 720.865.0815. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800, info@fourmilepark.org

3/29 to 3/30—Festival of Balloons. 11am-3:30pm, Sheraton Denver Downtown, 1550 Court Pl. Balloon entertainers and balloon art from artists around the world. Adults \$5; kids under 12 Free. www.eventbrite.com

3/29 to 3/30—Harlem Globetrotters. 2014 "Fans Rule" Tour. 1st Bank Center, Broomfield: 3/29 7:30pm. Pepsi Center: 3/30 2pm. www.harlemglobetrotters.com, www.altitudesports.com

4/9 to 4/13—Denver Auto Show. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. Adults \$10; kids \$5; under 6 free. www.paragonexpo.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS


2/14 to 3/9—Adaptive Yoga Kickoff. Free. Adaptive yoga for those not able to get to the floor or get up. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 9am-12pm. www.adaptiveyoga.org

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2/14 to 3/20—Free HIV testing at Rocky Mountain CARES nonprofit for holistic HIV care. 1-5pm, 3rd Thursday monthly and by appt. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Shannon Southall: 303.951.3694

3/1 to 5/3—Walk MS- Registration now open. Benefits Multiple Sclerosis Society. City Park, 9:30am, Sat., May 3. www.walkms.org

3/1 to 5/11—Mother. City Park, 9am, Sun., May 11. \$30/individual, \$90/family. www.mothersday5K.com

3/10 to 3/3—That Dam Run, Marathon, 5K and 1K Family Fun Run. Cherry Creek State Park. 10am. www.runningguru.com

3/10 to 3/15—Lucky Laces 5K/10K and Little Leprechaun Fun Run. City Park, 10am. www.runningguru.com/event/2014luckylaces

3/10 to 3/16—Running of the Green Lucky 7K Run and Walk. Benefits Volunteers of America. LoDo. www.rotg.org

3/10 to 3/28—Friday Night Yoga Club. Various Denver yoga studios. Fridays in March. www.fridaynightyogaclub.com

3/10 to 4/14—Infant Massage. Learn to massage your baby in a group environment that allows for deeper connections with your baby. 10-11:30am. www.catalysthealthysolutions.com, www.imuniqueunited.com

3/10 to 12/31—FREE Car Seat Inspections. Most car seats are used incorrectly. Children

4/1 to 5/27—Free Yoga Classes. Im'Unique presents Illustrating Yoga Union Tours. FREE yoga classes Tuesdays in April and May. 7-8pm (arrive 6:30pm). Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Ages 8 and up, all skill levels. Mats provided if needed. www.imuniqueunited.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

2/1 to 2/28—Tiny Tots, Inside the Orchestra. 45-minute Colorado Symphony concerts for kids 6 and under who sit next to musicians and hear classical music they may recognize! Various venues/dates. Concerts: 9:30 and 10:30am. \$7.50; children under 2 free. Tickets: www.insidetheorchestra.org

2/1 to 4/30—Tiny Tots Love Music, Denver Brass. Special concert for tiny tots and parents; introduce little ones to magic of live music. Various dates/locations. Tickets: www.denverbrass.org

3/1 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

3/1 to 3/2—Forney Transportation Museum Moffat Modelers Toy Train Layout. Scale toy train layout open first weekend every month. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

3/1 to 3/22—Wands and Wishes Snow Queen at the Ice Castles Breckenridge. A special meet and greet with The Wands and Wishes Snow Queen. Tickets required. Ages 12 and up. \$10/ages 4-11; \$8/4 and under/. FREE. 303-883-6778. www.icecastles.com

3/1 to 12/31—2nd Thursday Wands and Wishes Character Story Time. The Bookies Bookstore. Characters read interactive stories, sing song, pose for photos; different character monthly. 10:30am. FREE. 4315 E. Mississippi Ave, 303.883.6778, wandsandwishesoccasions.com

3/1 to 12/31—2nd Wednesday Create Playdates at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5. 10am. Art, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. 720.865.5000. www.denverartmuseum.org

3/1 to 12/31—Star K Kids. Thursdays, monthly. Puppets, stories, activities, outdoor explore, ages 5 and under. 9:30 & 11am. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. 303.739.2428, www.auroragov.org/nature

3/4 to 3/25—Tuesdays in March- Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

3/8 to 3/9—Junior Rangers. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature, wandsandwishesoccasions.com

3/8 to 3/22—Lowe. Bring kids to Lowe www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

3/8 to 3/22—Winter Park Wipeout. Combination scavenger hunt and wild adventure race around the town of Winter Park. Costumes encouraged. 1pm. www.winterparkwipeout.com

4/18 to 4/27—Rapunzel. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

4/18 to 4/30—Air-Cooled Volkswagens. Forney Museum. Free with admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

LECTURES AND CLASSES

3/1 to 2/18—Rocky Flats: A Personal Story, A Community Story. 7-8pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. \$8.50 members/\$10 nonmembers, at the door. 303.866.2394 www.historycolorado.org, www.GalleryGuideDenver.com

3/1 to 3/4—Active Minds (Free)- Mount Everest. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359 www.ActiveMinds.com

3/1 to 3/11—Active Minds (Free)- Egypt in Turmoil. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. 303.322.7727 www.ActiveMinds.com

3/1 to 3/13—Active Minds (Free)- The Life and Legacy of Richard Nixon. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc.,

2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724 www.ActiveMinds.com

3/1 to 3/25—Active Minds (Free)- The History of Rock and Roll. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax 303.322.7727 www.ActiveMinds.com

3/1 to 3/27—Active Minds (Free)- John F. Kennedy. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724 www.ActiveMinds.com

3/1 to 3/29—Being in Realation to Others. Workshops from Catalyst Healthy Solutions, LLC. Learn tools for communication, relationship and trust-building, decision making, supervision, leadership and empowerment. 1-5pm. \$75. www.catalysthealthysolutions.com

3/1 to 4/1—Active Minds (Free)- Benjamin Franklin. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359 www.ActiveMinds.com

3/1 to 12/31—2nd & 4th Fridays-Denver IDEA Caf. FREE startup workshop and speakers presented by Small Business Chamber of Commerce. 3:45pm. 2nd 4th Fridays. Panera Bread, 13th and Grant. 303.861.1447 or www.SmallBizChamber.org

LIBRARIES

3/1 to 12/31—Libraries. For children www.denverlibrary.org

3/1 to 12/31—Park Hill Library. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720.865.0250. Closed Sun. www.denverlibrary.org

3/1 to 12/31—Pauline Robinson Library. 5575 E. 33rd Ave. 720.865.0290. Closed Sun. www.denverlibrary.org

3/1 to 12/31—Sam Gary Library. 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325 Family programing 1st Saturday monthly. Stem-Opolis at the Sam Gary Library. 5-week 1-hour sessions for early elementary (K-3) and upper elementary (3-5) grades will focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). For next session and to register: 720.865.0325, ext. 2 www.denverlibrary.org

3/1 to 12/31—Schlessman Family Library. 100 Poplar St. (1st and Quebec). Closed Fri. 720.865.0000. www.denverlibrary.org

MUSEUMS—DENVER ART MUSEUM

3/1 to 3/23—Nature as Muse, Impressionist Landscapes. Part of the Passport to Paris exhibit, on view at general admission pricing through 3/23. www.denverartmuseum.org

3/1 to 12/31—Denver Art Museum. 100 West 14th Ave Parkway, www.denverartmuseum.org

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

2/14 to 3/14—Teen Night in Maya. 6:30-9pm. \$10 (teens only, 13-17). Delve into culture, rituals and mystery of Maya people with exclusive teens-only access to new exhibition Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed. Pizza, special activities for teens and admission to exhibition included in ticket. www.dmns.org

2/14 to 3/20—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/ members; \$10/nonmembers. www.dmns.org

2/14 to 6/5—IMAX Movies. Jerusalem 3D, Journey to the South Pacific 3D. Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/ adult. www.dmns.org/imax/current-films

2/14 to 5/31—Planetarium. Tales of the Mayan Sky, Perfect Little Sky www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-show

2/14 to 8/24—Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed. Special exhibit. Ticket required in addition to museum admission. www.dmns.org

3/1 to 12/31—Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Montview and Colorado Blvd. 303.370.6000 www.dmns.org

3/24 to 4/4—Spring Break Camps. Mon-Fri March 24-28 or Mon-Fri March 31-April 4. 9am-3:30pm. \$260 member, \$290 nonmember. Kids grades K-2 and grades 3-5. Explore and learn through exhibits, IMAX movies, planetarium shows and visits with museum staff. www.dmns.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

3/1 Saturday—Free Community CrossFit Class. Pando CrossFit and Yoga. www.pandodenver.com

3/1 to 3/4—Complimentary Golf Swing and Physical Evaluation. 5-7pm. Sign up for 1/2 hour slot. Fitzsimons Golf Course. http://kevincarlsonsgolf.com/complimentary-evaluations/

3/1 to 3/4—Denver County Republican Caucus, District 7. 7pm. Swigert International School, 3480 Syracuse St. Must be registered Republican to caucus; Independents welcome to observe process. Call 720.219.8911 for details or www.denverdistrict7gop.org

3/1 to 3/12—Preschool and Kindergarten Open House. Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, 9:30-11:00am. School and classroom tours. 1973 Elm St, rsvp. 303.377.8835 http://www.school.blessedsacrament.net, www.dsapresents.org.

3/1 to 3/22—Temple Micah Sock Hop. 7pm. Fellowship Hall, Temple Micah, 5209 Montview Blvd. Adults. Sock hop attire encouraged. Sponsor info and tickets: 303.388.4239 or www.micahdenver.org

3/1 to 3/31—March Events- Unity on the Avenue. 4670 E. 17th Ave. 303.322.3901 www.unityontheavenue.org

3/1 to 12/31—Central Park Recreation Center. Info: 750.865.0750 or (continued on page 32)

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(continued from page 31)

Facebook Central Park Recreation Center to register for programs. www.denvergov.org/recreation

3/1 to 12/31—Denver School of the Arts Performances. Montview and Quebec. Tickets/complete listings: www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances

3/1 to 12/31—Friday and Saturday Wine Tastings. Weekly. Wine Cellars, the Bottle Shop of Stapleton. 4-7pm. FREE. www.facebook.com/WineCellarsatStapleton

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

3/1 to 12/31—Bass Pro Events. Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout month. 720.385.3600. www.BassPro.com

3/1 to 12/31—Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre. Prices vary based on comedian and show time. Tickets: 303.307.1777. www.denver.improv.com

3/1 to 12/31—Toby Keith. 303.728.9468, Local and regional live music nightly. www.countrybarco.com

3/7 to 3/31—Harkins Theatres 18. 300: Rise of an Empire, Mr. Peabody & Sherman. www.harkinstheatres.com

3/14 to 3/31—Harkins Theatres 18. The Grand Budapest Hotel, Need for Speed. www.harkinstheatres.com

3/21 to 3/31—Harkins Theatres 18. Divergent, Muppets Most Wanted. www.harkinstheatres.com

3/28 to 3/31—Harkins Theatres 18. Noah, Sabotage. www.harkinstheatres.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

3/1 Saturday—Green Fire- Aldo Leopold: A Land Ethic for Our Time. 3pm. Documentary about life of Aldo Leopold and how he shaped today's conservation ethic. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

3/1 Saturday—Wildlife Viewing Tour. 11:30am. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

3/1 to 3/2—Green Fire- Aldo Leopold: A Land Ethic for Our Time. 3pm. Documentary about life of Aldo Leopold and how he shaped today's conservation ethic. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

3/1 to 3/2—Wildlife Viewing Tour. 11:30am. <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/>

[rocky_mountain_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

3/1 to 3/15—Thunder on the Prairie. 10am-12pm. Brief auditorium presentation and then bison viewing with an Arsenal naturalist. Binoculars and cameras recommended. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

3/1 to 3/22—Waterfowl ID. 9am-12pm. Learn tips and tricks of identifying waterfowl. Viewing at Arsenal lakes with naturalist. Binoculars and cameras recommended. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

3/1 to 12/31—Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Reservations required for events marked *. Hours: Mon.-Sun., 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Wed-Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed federal holidays. 303.289.0930. Directions/events: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

THEATRE

2/13 to 5/23—Lyle the Crocodile. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvadacenter.org

2/14 to 3/9—See What I Wanna See. Aurora Fox Arts Center, presented by Ignite Theatre. 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

2/21 to 3/22—Earth and Sky. Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater. 7653 E. 1st Place. www.johnhandtheater.com

2/28 to 3/9—I Go on Singing. Aurora Fox Arts Center, presented by Grand Design. 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

3/7 to 3/23—The Book of Moron. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

3/7 to 3/23—The Lyons. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St, Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

3/7 to 3/28—Lend Me a Tenor. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St, Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

3/25 to 4/13—End of the Rainbow. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvadacenter.org

3/28 to 5/4—Song for Coretta. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St, Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

4/11 to 4/27—Monte Python's Spamlot. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

4/18 to 5/25—Grey Gardens. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St, Aurora

Cultural Arts District.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

4/18 to 12/31—Assistance League of Denver. Seeks members to help underserved in metro Denver. Programs for victims, students, children, seniors. 303.322.5205, www.denver.assistanceleague.org

4/18 to 12/31—Cooking Matters. Kids/families free course on budget shopping and preparing healthy, affordable meals. Volunteers needed at multiple locations/ days to help. Learn Share our Strength Cooking Matters and all opportunities at covolunteer@strength.org.

4/18 to 12/31—Girl Scouts. With thousands of girls on waiting lists, Girl Scouts of Colorado critically needs adult volunteers. Contact: inquiry@gscolorado.org or 1.877.404.5708. girlscoutsofcolorado.org

4/18 to 12/31—Project Worthmore. Volunteers for teams (6-month commit) to assist Burmese refugees by www.projectworthmore.com

4/18 to 12/31—Reading Volunteers Needed. At Odyssey School or Venture Prep Middle School for 2013-14 school year to share one-on-one reading. Email Julie@PartnersinLiteracy.org.

4/18 to 12/31—Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Volunteer opportunities for singles: local projects, charitable social events and working vacations abroad. www.svgd.org

4/18 to 12/31—Summer Scholars. Year-round volunteers needed to read with students/assist in office. 303.381.3738, www.summerscholars.org.

4/18 to 12/31—Volunteers of America Foster Grandparent Program. Seeks adults 55+ with lower incomes who love working with kids and can give 15/ more hours/week. Small stipend given; transportation reimbursed. 303.297.0408 (Naomi Taggart). www.voacolorado.org

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

3/1 to 3/29—Ritual Capoeira for Kids. Pando CrossFit and Yoga. 8216 Northfield Blvd #1338. 9am. RITUAL Capoeira for kids brings together elements of martial arts, music, acrobatics, story telling and dance to enhance confidence with creative problem-solving capoeira philosophy. www.pandodenver.com

3/1 to 12/31—Art Students League of Denver. Programs for kids/teens. 303.778.6990, www.ASLD.org

3/1 to 12/31—Aurora Fox Theater. Drama classes ages 4 and up. Lisa Mumpton: 303.739.1573, www.aurorafox.org

3/1 to 12/31—Denver Museum of Miniatures. Dolls and Toys Workshops- Museum adm.: \$6/adults, \$4/kids 5-16/under 5 free. 1880 Gaylord St. See website for current workshops. www.dmmtdt.org

3/1 to 12/31—Jewish Community Center. Variety of programs for kids grades K-5. www.jcc.org

3/1 to 12/31—Kim Robards School of Dance. Classes for dancers all ages/ skill levels: modern, ballet, jazz, tap, repertory, hip hop. 9900 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora. Schedule/performance info: www.kimrobardsdance.org

3/1 to 12/31—Music Lingua Musical Spanish Classes. Ages newborn-6. Learn Spanish in interactive parent/tot classes. samanthabensoncox@hotmail.com, www.musiclingua.com

3/1 to 12/31—Neighborhood Music Stapleton. Private and group instruction, piano, voice, guitar, ukulele, mandolin, violin and drums. Ages 3 and up. Skye Barker Maa. 720.353.6622, www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

3/1 to 12/31—Sew Creative Stapleton. Variety of sewing classes for kids ages 6 and older, including adults. www.sewcreativestapleton.com

3/1 to 12/31—Sol Vida Dance Studio and Dance Camps. Kid/adult classes, workshops, camps, etc. www.solvidadance.com

3/1 to 12/31—Spark It Studios. Art classes in Stapleton. www.sparkitdenver.com

3/1 to 12/31—Stapleton All Sports. Spring and summer program registration now open: tennis, golf, cheer and dance; baseball: skills and league. www.stapletonall-sports.com

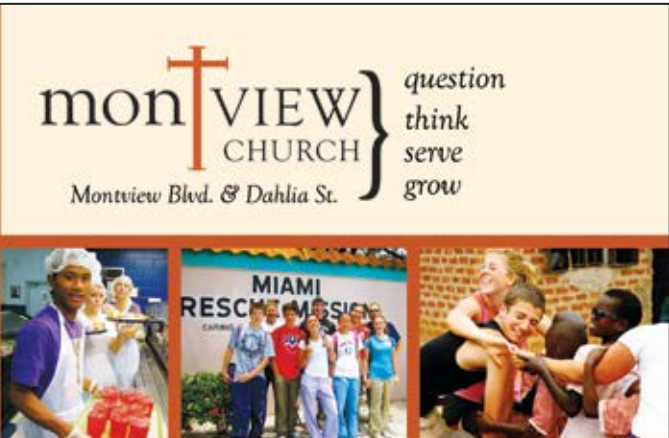
3/1 to 12/31—Start Art. Art classes. startartkids.com

3/1 to 12/31—The Art Garage. Classes ages 4 and up. Adult evening classes also. 6100 E 23rd Ave, Park Hill. www.artgaragedenver.com

3/1 to 12/31—The Urban Farm. Embracing Horses. info@theurbanfarm.org, www.theurbanfarm.org

MEETINGS—BUSINESS GROUPS

3/1 to 12/31—Greater Stapleton Business Assoc. 3rd Tuesday, 8am. MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. 303-393-7700, www.stapletonbusiness.com



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This year Montview youth go to Tucson, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico—their 61st worktrip—to work with Borderlinks, an organization that focuses on immigration issues, economic policies and issues of globalization. Later they head to Zimbabwe to help with construction and education projects. Trips like these give them confidence, foster generosity and build relationships while exploring a connection with God. You can support this work by visiting the **Montview Garage Sale, their biggest annual fundraiser, on Saturday, March 22.** For information about getting involved with Montview's Youth Program or the Garage Sale, please contact Rev. Sheri Fry at fry@montview.org or go to www.montview.org.



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3/1 to 12/31—Stapleton and Beyond Networking Group. First Tuesday, 8:30-10am, 303-955-0861, Aaron.Ktafoya@farmersagency.com

3/1 to 12/31—Work From Home Group. 1st Wednesday, 12-1pm. Smartspace, 2373 Central Park Blvd #100. Brown bag or group order for lunch. www.stapletonhomebusiness.com

MEETINGS—CIVIC GROUPS

3/1 to 12/31—Bluff Lake Site Stewards. Every Wednesday, 8-11am. Bluff Lake Nature Center. 303-945-6717 www.blufflake.org

3/1 to 12/31—NPET. First Saturday Clean Up Activities. 9 AM-12 Noon. Contact Katie Lampe, Sand Creek Regional Greenway K Lampe@Sandcreekgreenway.org or Lucia Correll Lcorrell@dotnet.net for place each month.

3/1 to 12/31—P.E.O. International Chapter Meeting. Supporting women

3/1 to 12/31—Stapleton Rotary Club. Every Tuesday, 7:30am. Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St. www.denverstapletonrotary.org

MEETINGS—INTEREST GROUPS

3/1 to 12/31—Bluff Lake Birders. 1st Saturday, 8am. Nature Center. www.blufflake.org

3/1 to 12/31—Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. 3rd Thursday. Grace, 303-455-0839

3/1 to 12/31—Colorado Symphony Guild. Every 3rd Thursday at St. Luke

3/1 to 12/31—Daughters of the American Revolution. 3rd Saturday. Adagio Bed and Breakfast, 1430 Race St. Prospective members welcome- rsvp to Helen Strader, 303-997-6788

3/1 to 12/31—Denver County Republicans. HD7 Meeting. For monthly meeting info. See website or call Captain Rebekah Keller at 720-219-8911 www.denverdistrict7gop.org

3/1 to 12/31—Lowry Peak Speakers Toastmaster Club. 2nd and 3rd Wednesday, noon- 1pm. Pinnacle Assurance, 7501 E. Lowry Blvd, Denver 80203. lpstoaasters@gmail.com lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org

3/1 to 12/31—Stapleton Wine Appreciation Group. Periodically. stapletonswag@gmail.com

4/1 to 10/31—Cycleton Bike Repair Clinic. 2nd Tuesday, 6pm. 7480 E. 29th Ave. 303.329.0069. www.cycleton.com

MEETINGS—STAPLETON GROUPS

3/1 to 12/31—Parks Advisory Group. 2nd Tuesday, 8:30am. 7350 E 29th Ave, 3rd Fl. Lcorrell@dotnet.net

3/1 to 12/31—Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board Mtg. 3rd Thursday, 7:30-9am. 7350 E. 29th Ave., 3rd fl. 303.393.7700

3/1 to 12/31—Stapleton Development Corporation Meeting. 4th Thursday, 7:30-9am. 7350 E. 29th Ave., 3rd fl. 303.393.7700

3/1 to 12/31—Sun Board Mtg. 3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm block captain, 7:30pm board. Central Park Rec Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

3/1 to 12/31—Sun Transportation Committee. 2nd Wed. (odd-numbered mos.) 6:30pm. MCA 2823 Roslyn St. stapletonneighbors@msn.com

MEETINGS—SUPPORT GROUPS

3/1 to 12/31—AA Open Meeting. Every Tuesday, 6pm. St Thomas Episcopal Church, 22nd and Dexter. Shirley 303.726.2998

3/1 to 12/31—Adoptees in Search General Meeting. 4th Tuesday, 7:30-9pm.

Montview Presby. Church, Study Group Room. AISCTC.org 303-232-6302

3/1 to 12/31—Adoptees in Search Support Group. 2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30pm. Montview Presby. Church, Robinsom Rm. AISCTC.org 303-232-6302

3/1 to 12/31—Breast Cancer Support Group. 1st Tuesday, 5-6:30pm. AF Williams Family Medicine Clinic Conf Rm. (West entrance) 3055 Roslyn (at MLK). 720-848-9000

3/1 to 12/31—NE Denver/Park Hill MS Self Help and Support Group. 2nd Saturday, 10:15-11:45am. Dist. 2 Police Station, 3821 Holly St. 303-329-0619

3/1 to 12/31—OA Open Discussion Meeting. Every Monday 7:00 pm, @ Hangar 61 8700 E 21st Ave Denver CO 80238 Mary 720-291-9065 or Mike 303-325-6650

3/1 to 12/31—Parkinson Support Group in Northeast Denver. 4th Saturday, 9:30am. Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center, 3334 Holly St. www.parkinsonrockies.org Regina Jones 720-298-5760

3/7 to 3/28—1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays of month- Mom Time at Montview. Mothers learn/support each other. Sessions on parenting, life balance, self-care. Breakfast/childcare provided. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980

Dahlia. Rm. 305. 9:15-11:15am. leahcnoliver@yahoo.com; Anna.A.Clark@gmail.com www.montviewmomtime.wordpress.com;

MEETINGS—SUPPORT GROUPS

3/1 to 12/31—AA Open Discussion Mtg. Every Tuesday, 7:30pm. MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. 303-912-7075

To submit Front Porch "Local Event" Listings

Email information in the following format by the 15th of the month to FrontPorchEvents@gmail.com. Events will be run subject to space available.

Date in numerical format (mm/dd), day of week- Name of Event. A one- or two-sentence description. Time. List cost or if free. Location. Contact information.

Press releases for suggested stories should be sent separately to FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com.



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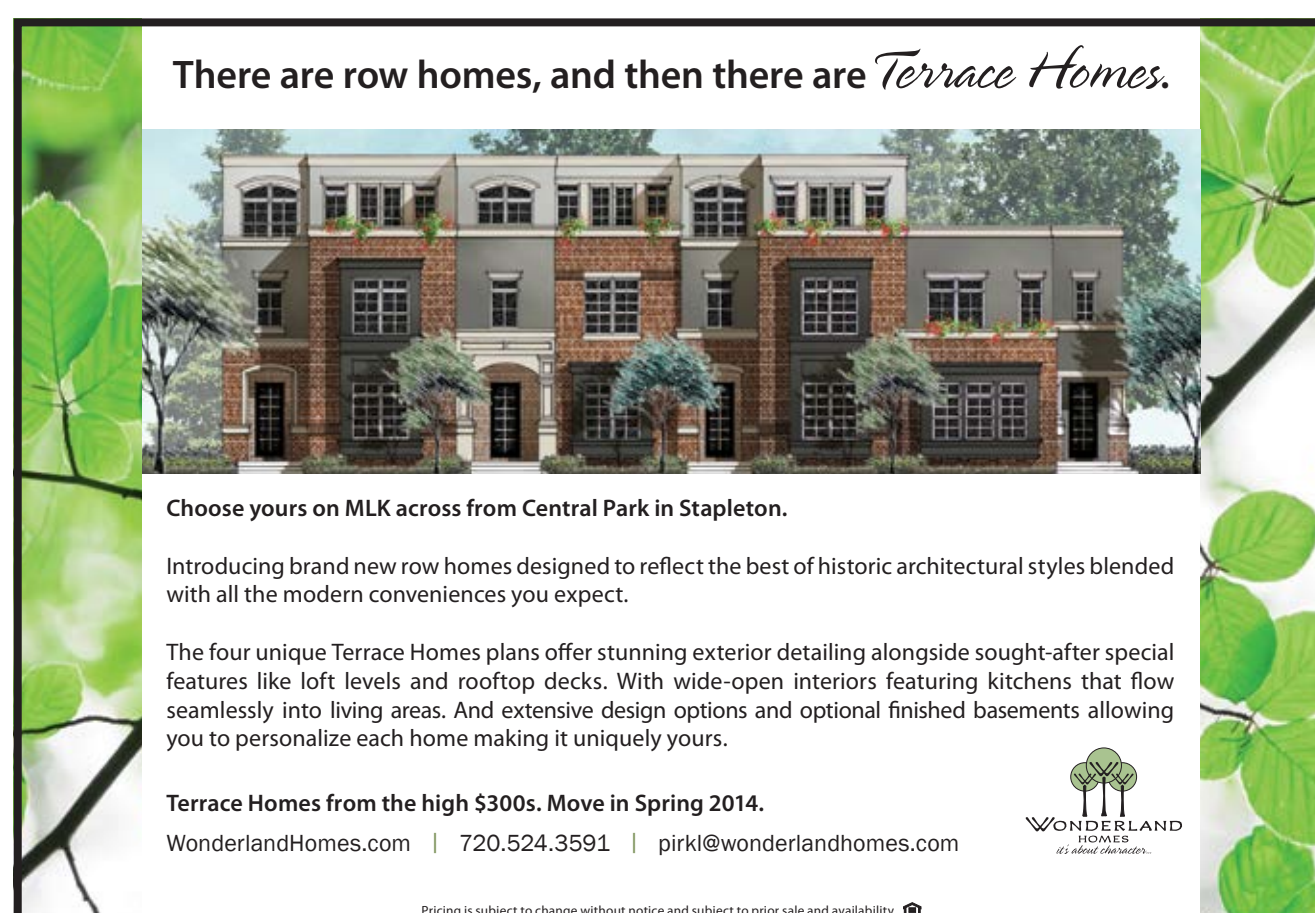
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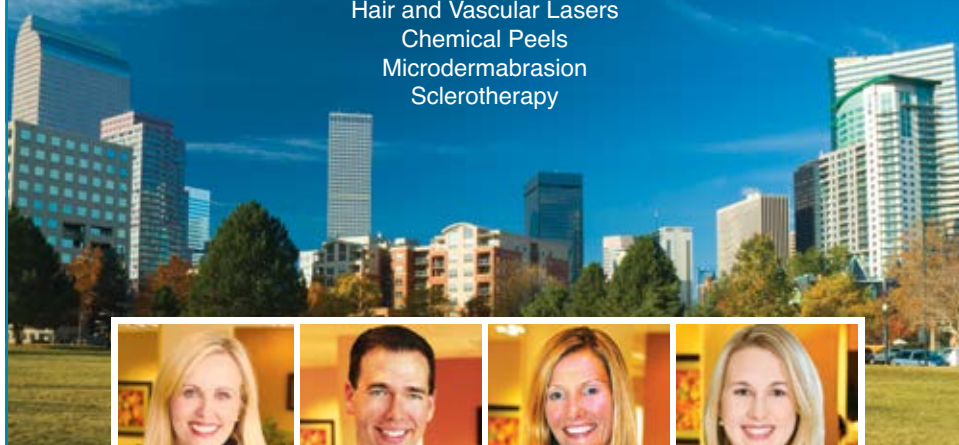
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Area Pee wee Hockey Players Bring Home International Title



Goalie Adam Bublitz accepts the championship trophy for the University of Denver Jr. Pioneers at the 55th Quebec International Pee wee Hockey Tournament in Quebec City. The tournament attracts hockey players from around the world. The Jr. Pioneers qualified to represent the Avalanche—this is the second year the Jr. Avalanche have won their division, which comprised of 16 teams this year. The team lost one and won four games, including the final against Austria. They also beat teams from England, Germany, Quebec, and the U.S. in scrimmages. After their 12-day trip, the team has returned home.

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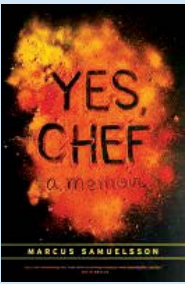


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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

The *Front Porch* prints book reviews by librarians in Northeast Denver, rotating to a different library each month. Amy DelPo from Schlessman Family Branch Library reviewed this month's books.



Adult nonfiction

Yes, Chef by Marcus Samuelsson
This memoir by celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson is no ordinary food story. Samuelsson was born to a poor farming family in Ethiopia and was orphaned at the age of two when he, his mother, and his sister all contracted tuberculosis—and his mother died while getting her children the medical help that saved their lives. Samuelsson and his sister were adopted by a loving Swedish family, and so they moved to Sweden, where Samuelsson's passion for food was born and nurtured as he cooked alongside his Swedish grandmother. This memoir—which takes us from Ethiopia to Sweden to France and ultimately to the United States—is about food, race, family, and love. It also gives a behind-the-scenes look at the grind of working in the world's top restaurants. An inspirational and beautiful tale well told. The audio book, which is narrated by Samuelsson, is also quite enjoyable.

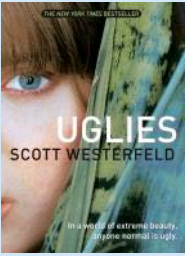
Adult fiction

Fin and Lady by Cathleen Schine
Fin is a sensitive yet precocious 11-year-old boy whose quiet life on a Connecticut dairy farm is destroyed when his loving mother dies unexpectedly. The only person left to take Fin in is his flighty older stepsister, Lady, who is living the fabulous life of a beautiful and curious single woman in New York circa 1964. Lady is not exactly the mothering type, but she takes care of Fin in her own way, and he adores her. They move first to Greenwich Village and later to Italy, and what starts out as a frothy tale about the adventures of this unlikely pair turns almost unexpectedly into a poignant story about true love—not the romantic kind, but the kind that happens when someone knows you completely and loves you anyway.

Young Adult fiction

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
In this book's dystopic world, everyone undergoes surgery at the age of 16 to turn from an ordinary looking Ugly to a stunning

The Book Worm



and perfectly attractive Pretty. The rationalization for the surgery is that if everyone meets the same standard of beauty, then discrimination and prejudice based on looks won't exist. The real reason for the surgery is darker and more nefarious—and is the mystery driving the action in this tale. The book's heroine is Tally Youngblood, a 15-year-old Ugly who is tantalizing close to her 16th birthday when she meets Shay, an Ugly girl who wants to keep looking like—and acting like—herself. When Shay runs away to avoid being turned Pretty, Tally must go after her and confront what being Pretty really means. Even for teens (and adults!) tired of dystopic fiction, this book is worth a read because it raises interesting questions about beauty and conformity and identity. It also examines where meaning can be found in life—through fun or through struggle—through fantasy or through reality.

one day—mute but sweet—they take him in, temporarily at first, but then with an eye toward keeping him. Even though he can't talk, he is intelligent and artistic and has an empathetic soul that they fall in love with. Two questions haunt the couple and the story—where did the boy come from? And will someone ever return to claim him?

Picture book

Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson
“There is magic in this bare brown tree/Tap it once/Turn the page to see.” So begins a truly magical picture book about a tree as it lives through each season—growing green leaves in the spring, losing them in the fall, and so on. Each page asks the reader to do something—tap the tree or rub it or shake it—and then—ta da! —turn the page and see the changes in the tree. This illusion—that the reader is really making things happen to the tree—fires the imagination of young children and makes this a fun book for adults and kids to read together.

Librarians who wish to contribute reviews should contact Madeline Schroeder at madeline@frontporchstapleton.com.

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The SUN Spot

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SUN Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm (Block Captain meeting) and 7:30pm (Board meeting) at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com



(SUN) Board of Directors Annual Election

Are you new to the neighborhood? Have you hoped that more voices from the community would be represented in development decisions? Want to help make Stapleton a better place to live and work? Do you have talents and skills that could be put to good use in planning future development in Stapleton? Are you a current resident who has been looking for an opportunity to get involved with neighborhood issues? If your answer is “yes” to any of these questions, please consider running for a leadership position on the Stapleton United Neighbors Board of Directors.

The first SUN Board was elected in the spring of 2004. During the past 10 years, much has been accomplished. SUN supports a community participation block captain network of over 200 community leaders. SUN now hosts regular forums with Forest City representatives and officials from the Denver city government to help keep Stapleton residents up to date on the state of our neighborhood. SUN also organizes the annual Block Party Day (6/28/2014) and the Kickball Tournament (9/13/2014), to help bring new neighbors together, and build the bonds that are critical to strong communities. Now it is time to make plans for another year of progress with the election of members of the SUN Board of Directors. Of the 15 two-year seats on the SUN Board, seven are up for election this year. As Stapleton is always growing, SUN is committed to including on the board residents from all areas of our neighborhood.

Stapleton United Neighbors Board Election FAQs

What is SUN, and what role does it play in the neighborhood?

The mission of SUN is to work for the betterment of the Stapleton neighborhood and the City and County of Denver by providing: (i) a forum for residents living within the boundaries of SUN to discuss and resolve issues; (ii) a network of communication; (iii) a means of acting on matters of importance to the community as a whole. Check out the SUN website at www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com for more information.

What are the obligations?

SUN board members are responsible for helping bring the mission of SUN to life through work in the community. That includes monthly meetings (optional outreach meeting at 6:30pm followed by SUN board meeting at 7:30pm on the third Tues. of Jan. through Nov.). Chairing or serving on a SUN committee (transportation, education, outreach, safety and communication, kickball, fundraising and sustainability), serving as a SUN liaison on a Stapleton Citizens’ Advisory Board (CAB) or Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) committee (parks advisory group (PAG), zoning and planning (ZAP), housing diversity, community communications and design review) or serving as a SUN liaison to Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC). Authoring one or more article(s) per year for the SUN Spot section of the *Front Porch*. Attending and helping out with SUN-sponsored community events and forums. Promoting the work of SUN and the ethos of SUN’s mission in the community.

What is the time commitment involved?

Monthly board meetings last an hour and a half, (2.5 hours in June). SUN, CAB and SDC committee meetings are usually once a month and run about an hour to an hour and a half and INC meetings are the second Sat. of the month for three hours. Beyond that, keeping up with voice mail, email, other events and meetings can add as little as a few minutes to as much as several hours per week. As a general rule, SUN will involve about 10–15 hours a month of time commitment, and potentially more depending on the calendar of events.

What do I need to do to run for the Board?

The application process entails submitting a 200-word statement of interest and bio to Sean Tierney (seantierney3@yahoo.com) by **April 1**, and attending the SUN Forum and Election on May 20. The statement of interest and bio will be posted on SUN’s website at www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com.

Editor’s Note

As the paper went to press, the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) and the Park Creek Metro District (PCMD) were conferring about the Stapleton Parks consultant position. Please refer to the chart on pages 20 and 21 for an explanation of the entities cited in this article.

By Carol Roberts

There is widespread agreement that Stapleton has great parks, and a lot of them—1116 acres of parks and open space, almost 25% of the development. These parks have been designed and built with three-way input: from Forest City, the City of Denver and from representatives of the community through advisory boards and the Stapleton Development Corporation. Participants in any big, complicated 25-year project will have differing viewpoints. In this project, the community members believe that having the differing viewpoints working together has ultimately strengthened the final outcome.

Now the community advisory groups are concerned that the successful three-way balance has changed. The President of Park Creek Metro District, King Harris, recently made an executive decision that due to the budget problems at Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC), the parks consultant position held by Dennis Piper would be terminated and the funds should be reallocated to cover the cost of SDC staff positions.

The community advisory groups say the parks consultant has used his expertise to interpret plans and budgets at a stage when there is still time for changes and has informed community groups when there was a question whether plans followed the principles of the Stapleton Development Plan (the Green Book). The consensus of the Parks Advisory Group was that the community is currently reaping big benefits from the relatively small cost of the consultant position.

The Parks Advisory Group (PAG) and the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) acted immediately upon hearing the parks consultant position was terminated, send-



Parks Development

ing requests to the Stapleton Development Corporation—made by unanimous agreement in both groups—asking SDC to support the continuance of the parks consultant position.

The chairs of both groups attended the SDC meeting Feb. 27 and spoke of the importance of the position. Community members in support of the parks lined the walls of the meeting room.

One of the community members, Dr. Patricia Olson, stood up to speak. “As a citizen I’ll put up one third of a year’s funding, so you’ll have at least four months to work through this. I as a citizen believe this is important and Stapleton would like to see these fabulous parks go forward in a very logical way. That’s my contribution as a citizen, if you’re interested.”

SDC board member Happy Haynes said, at the end of the board’s discussion, “We heard you loudly and clearly. We all agree the role is important to continue. We’re going to have to figure out how to get it done in as timely a fashion as we all can.”

King Harris, prior to the meeting, told the Front Porch he terminated the parks consultant position because he believes funding for SDC staff is higher priority than a parks consultant—and added he personally has the expertise to represent the community in parks development.

At the meeting Harris added, “It isn’t the lack of importance of the position that caused

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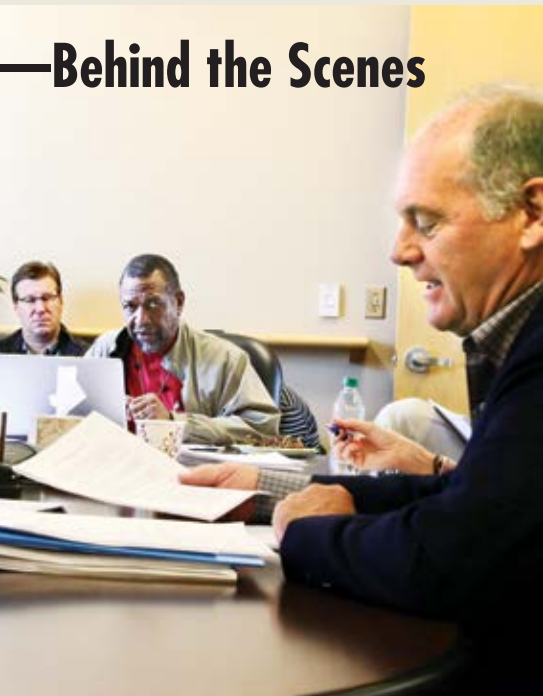
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Behind the Scenes



The Park Creek Metro District board meets monthly to approve contracts and oversee the construction of infrastructure at Stapleton. At this meeting, on February 27, the board went into executive session to discuss the position of parks consultant as the paper went to press. Clockwise from left are board members Cheryl Cohen-Vader, Jim Chrisman and King Harris, chairman (red shirt). Paul Cockrel (right) is the attorney for PCMD and (rear) Keven Burnett, executive director of Stapleton MCA, was an observer at the meeting.

tor of Parks and Environment. Piper then participated in writing the Stapleton Parks Development Plan (the Blue Book).

By keeping abreast of the plans, he could advise the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) as they performed their role of watching over the development of the old airport land to be sure it followed the principles of the parks plan.

Piper worked as Director of Parks and Environment until 2008, when SDC ended the funding for that position for budgetary reasons and Park Creek Metro District (which receives TIF funds and fees from the developer to build parks) reduced his hours and paid him as a consultant. Forest City took over the role Piper had played in parks development.

Since 2008, Piper has continued to examine Stapleton parks plans and budgets and interpret them for PCMD, SDC and community oversight groups, pointing out possible areas of community concern, and devoting far more hours than his consulting fee pays for.

Through all the years of development, Piper has been meeting with the Parks Advisory Group (PAG) each month as they get updates from Forest City. Representatives from Denver Parks, Sand Creek, Bluff Lake, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Aurora and SUN are some of the many interested people who come to these meetings regularly to stay apprised of Stapleton Parks development.

Immediately following the SDC meeting, Harris attended the PCMD meeting and told the board, "There is great angst about that (parks consultant) issue."

We'll have an update next month.

us to eliminate it. We don't have unlimited funds. Something will need to be eliminated if we fund this position."

Advisory group members say a big reason the parks consultant role is so important is because that person is the one with no other interest except to be sure trunk (regional) open space is developed following the principles of the Green Book.

Forest City signed on to carry out the vision in the Green Book, but as a publicly held company that took a big risk, they also have an obligation to their stockholders to make a profit. The finished parks and open space will be given to the city, and their parks experts contribute to the process, but they also have an obligation to the entire Denver parks system.

To better understand the parks consultant position, one needs to look back to 1997. The Stapleton Development Corporation at that time understood that developing over 1,000 acres of parkland to meet the vision of the Green Book was going to be an enormous undertaking—and the volunteers on the Stapleton Development Corporation didn't have the expertise for such a task. Just as they understood they needed an experienced master developer to build the residential and commercial property, they also needed an experienced parks planner.

Piper, who had 20 years of experience as a parks planner and landscape architect in the National Parks system, was hired to be Direc-

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Top: During intermission the audience enjoys the Art Deco ambience of the Fox Theater lobby. Below: Along Colfax, the Aurora Arts District has a new look with improved street and building lights, sculptures, and reconstruction of classic neon signs.



Aurora Arts

(continued from page 1)

venues for 2014, according to Charlie Packard, executive producer at the Aurora Fox Theater, the district's original attraction. "Venues and galleries just keep popping up in the area," he said.

The Aurora Cultural Arts District is a six-block stretch on Colfax and its side streets, between Chester and Geneva streets. The burgeoning district offers high-quality performing art, galleries, art-related businesses, education and dance. Visitors enjoy live

ing The Collection and Sunrise Artworks; art education for children at Downtown Aurora Visual Arts; and Red Delicious Press, a fine art printmaking business. The newest offering on the block is Kim Robards Dance.

The district is growing with the support of the City of Aurora. The city acquired several buildings in the area to be used for cultural

Fox and Vintage Theaters Anchor New Aurora Arts District



Aurora Fox actors take a curtain call after the production of Painted Bread celebrating Frida Kahlo.

organizations at low rental rates. The Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD) rents 1400 Dallas St. from the city at \$10 per year for its office space. ACAD rents out the rest of the building—10 studios, galleries and classrooms—to generate income for the district.

"It's quite special, the way Aurora helps its artists," said Tracy Weil, director of ACAD. "I help with other arts districts in the area and this is a rare thing."

Bond said his Vintage Theatre moved from Denver to Aurora because of the support available. "The city helped us get a Colfax Economic Enrichment Program grant totaling \$50,000. We built a second theatre space, a lobby and a cabaret so we could grow.



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Clockwise from top left: In the women's dressing room of Vintage Theatre, Deborah Persoff (left) cracks a joke to Haley Johnson (right) and Darcy Kennedy (behind); Craig A. Bond is the artistic director for Vintage Theatre; Vintage's smaller 65-seat theater, offers a more intimate experience for the production of *The Lyons*, a dark comedy about a dying patriarch for a dysfunctional family; Bernie Cardell, the director of the production on this particular evening, chats with friends in the lobby of Vintage Theatre, which was converted into a restaurant for the night.



Having two theaters gives us the ability to reach more patrons."

Aurora also supports the district by providing extra safety measures. Sally Mounier, the district's city councilwoman, is committed to making ACAD a safe destination for fun.

"For the district to be walkable, people have to feel safe," Mounier said. "Colfax has 26 miles of bad reputation, from Aurora to Lakewood. I have to ensure the public feels safe. Tracy and the other artists are in place to do good things. My role as city councilwoman is to move heaven and earth to help them get it done."

The city's safety priorities include better lighting and a visible police presence. Aurora hired an artist to light up the district with neon. "You can tell you're in an arts district now," said Weil. "The neon creates a sense of place and a safe environment. Once people get here, they see it's safe."

Aurora also uses hidden scanners to keep track of every car in the area. "Aurora is not a good place for bad guys," Mounier said.

Restaurants are important to the mix. Mounier said the city participates in enticing good eateries to the district. In 2014, the district will see the opening

of MU Brewery, the first microbrewery in the area; La Paninoteca, an Italian bakery and panini shop; Paprika Express, offering a Moroccan and Mediterranean menu; and Granny Annie's Peachy Pie, moving from its current location to bring Southern-style barbecue and catfish to Aurora.

"We especially want the small-business restaurants rather than the chains," said Mounier.

Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan said Aurora's support of the district reflects city objectives. "A thriving cultural arts district is a powerful community asset, serving to foster urban rejuvenation and create arts-based place-making within the city, and that improves our overall quality of life," he said.

The lively arts hub is good for neighboring areas as well. "I'm seeing a triangle developing between Stapleton, Lowry and the Fitzsimons campus, and the Aurora arts district is smack dab in the middle of that triangle," said Weil. The district, about five minutes from Stapleton, offers

free parking at the Vintage and Fox theaters, as well as shared parking next to the MLK Library across the street.

Weil, who helped create the booming RiNo Art District and Lakewood's 40 West Arts District, says each district reflects its own neighborhood and history. "Aurora's diversity makes it special and distinct. I learned that 120 different languages are spoken here, thanks to the many refugees who make Aurora their home. Diversity is becoming our niche, which also fits with Aurora's history. It was a gateway to the Rockies in the 1930s and '40s, when immigrant populations came through here.

"ACAD is also becoming a performing arts hub because of its strong theater presence."

Weil is working toward a greater density of artists in the district. "There are still some vacant buildings I'd like to see reclaimed. We have 30 artists now. I'd like to see that number grow to 100."

Current Productions

Vintage Theatre

The Lyons—through March 9

As Ben Lyons lies dying, it's clear Ben and Rita have been at war for many years, and that Ben's impending demise has brought no relief. Terrible secrets and vicious accusations replace sentimental memories when the family gathers. In Act Two we watch as each of them take the first tentative steps toward new human connection.

Lend Me a Tenor—through March 23

Set in 1934, the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, is primed to welcome, Tito Morelli, Il Stupendo, the greatest tenor of his generation, to appear for one night only as Otello. Through a series of mishaps, the star passes out. To salvage the evening, the assistant manager gets into Morelli's Otello costume, but when Morelli comes to, there are two Otellos on stage.

Song For Coretta—March 28 to May 4

On February 6, 2006, people began lining up at dawn outside of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church to pay their respects to Mrs. Coretta Scott King. At close to midnight, the crowd had dwindled to a determined few. The five fictional characters in this play are at the end of that long line of mourners.

Grey Gardens Returns—April 18 to May 25

The hilarious and heartbreaking story of Big Edie and Little Edie Bouvier Beale, the eccentric aunt and cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, who became East Hampton's most notorious recluses.

Aurora Fox

See What I Wanna See—through March 9

A musical presented by Ignite Theatre about lust, greed, murder, faith and redemption, this was named by New York Magazine as one of the Best Musicals of 2005. It is based on three short stories by the Japanese writer Ryunosuke Akutagawa and unfolds like a classical Japanese screen painting.

I Go On Singing—Paul Robeson's Life in His Words & Songs—through March 9

An All-American athlete, and star of the stage and screen, Paul Robeson by the 1930s was the best-known African-American entertainer in the world. But ultimately he would sacrifice his career by challenging the dominant culture's politics and status quo. Presented by Grand Design.

SPAMALOT—April 11 to April 27

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